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INDIA RESPONSE

Handling fallout of China's wilted COVID strategy

Community engagement is key to containment

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IN FINE FORM

David Warner slams double century

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Nasal vaccine to cost ₹800 in private centres

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech said on Tuesday that its nasally administered vaccine against COVID-19 would be available at ₹800 in private vaccination centres and at ₹325 in government facilities from the fourth week of January.

iNCOVACC, which will be rolled out as a booster dose for those aged 18 and above, is the world's first intranasal vaccine against the novel coronavirus to receive approval for the primary two-dose schedule and as a heterologous booster dose.

The Union government partially financed its development and clinical trials through the COVID Suraksha Programme of the Department of Biotechnology. Appointments for the booster shot can be taken through the CoWIN website.

States test COVID units to review preparedness

The exercise checked the availability of hospital beds, oxygen, ventilator support, following a directive from the Centre; India reported fewer than 200 COVID-19 cases on Tuesday

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Following a directive from the Union Health Ministry to assess preparedness to tackle any resurgence of COVID-19, several States held drills in hospitals on Tuesday.

A global surge in coronavirus cases, particularly in China, prompted authorities to assess India's preparedness. The country, in keeping with trends from the past two weeks, reported fewer than 200 cases on Tuesday, with no confirmed reports of novel infectious variants.

"The availability of medical facilities in hospitals, isolation wards, beds, oxygen facilities and capacity of beds equipped with ventilator supports too were reviewed during the mock drill," a senior official of the Bihar Health Department, who requested anonymity, told *The Hindu*.

Ready for a surge: A drill under way at LNJP Hospital in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Eleven foreigners who had come to Gaya in the State from Thailand, Taiwan and Myanmar to attend the Dalai Lama's three-day spiritual training camp tested positive on December 25 and 26 and have been isolated at a hotel.

"The organisers of the Dalai Lama's camp have been asked to test all those meeting him for COVID-19 and follow all guidelines strictly," Gaya District Magistrate Thiyagarajan S.M. said.

One person tested positive on December 26 and his sample has been sent to the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences in Patna for genome sequencing.

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Odisha orders CID probe into death of Putin critic

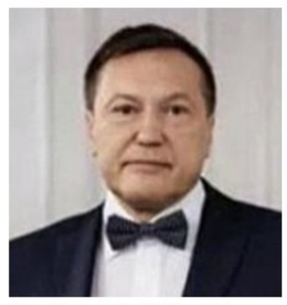
The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

Three days after Pavel Antov, a known critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin, died under mysterious circumstances at Rayagada in Odisha, the State police on Tuesday intensified their investigation.

Two days before Antov's death, his friend Bydanov Vladmir was found dead in the hotel room on December 22. Doctors reported that Bydanov, 61, had died after a heart attack.

Sunil Kumar Bansal, Director-General of Police, ordered an investigation by the Crime Investigation Department into the "unnatural" deaths.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Russian Embassy in New Delhi said: "We are aware of the tragic demise of two Russian citizens in Odisha. One of those who died is Pavel Antov, a Vladimir Region Legislative Assembly member."



Pavel Antov died after falling off the rooftop of a hotel in Rayagada district of Odisha.

Antov had taken a critical view of the Russian attacks on Ukraine. The 65-year-old millionaire lawmaker was the founder of the Vladimir Standard meat processing plant.

Antov, Bydanov and two other Russians had come to Odisha as tourists. Antov died after falling from the rooftop of Sai International Hotel at Rayagada.

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NEARBY

No restrictions on economic activity: Sudhakar

BENGALURU/HUBBALLI

As Karnataka prepares to face a COVID-19 scare, Health Minister K. Sudhakar said that there was no proposal to impose any restriction on economic activities as the economy was still reviving after the pandemic, and clarified that the government's priority was lives and livelihood. » PAGE 2

Assembly adopts BMLTA Bill for urban mobility

BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted the BMLTA Bill, 2022, that is aimed at better management of the city's urban mobility. » PAGE 5

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Govt. debts rise in the September quarter: Finance Ministry

147.19 In ₹ lakh crore, the total liabilities of the government at September-end increasing from ₹145 lakh crore at the end of June this fiscal year, according to the latest data on public debt. Public debt accounted for 89.1% of total gross liabilities in September-end 2022, the Finance Ministry informed. *PTI*

More than half of Odisha people yet to receive booster doses

59 The percentage of eligible people who are yet to receive the booster dose of the COVID vaccines in Odisha. The State government has urged the Union government to supply the shots to expedite the vaccination drive, an official said. The Odisha government is also planning to hold next year's State board examinations for classes 10 and 12 adhering to COVID guidelines. PTI

Decline in GNPAs of country's banks, says Reserve Bank of India

5.8 In percentage, the decline in Indian banks' gross non-performing assets (GNPAs), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) informed. The present macroeconomic environment can impact lenders' health, the RBI added. The GNPAs, which touched a peak in FY18 following the asset quality review, have been declining sequentially to reach 5% in September. PTI

Delhi clocks a new peak power demand for the season

4,803 In Megawatt, Delhi's peak power demand on Monday, the highest this season. The highest peak power demand comes amid plummeting mercury levels in the city. With the power output recorded at 10.22 a.m., this season's peak power demand is more than the ones clocked in December 2021 and December 2020. PTI

Rohingya Muslims die in open sea, while on their way to Indonesia

26 The number of Rohingya Muslims to have died in dire conditions during a month at open sea while making a dangerous voyage to Indonesia, a UN agency said. Exhausted women and children were among 185 people who disembarked from a rickety wooden boat on Monday in a coastal village in Aceh, Indonesia. *AP*

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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India's bid to beat cervical cancer

Why is cervical cancer taking so many lives in the country? What is the importance of the HPV vaccine in preventing and curing the disease? Why is the Universal Immunisation Programme being roped in for vaccination?

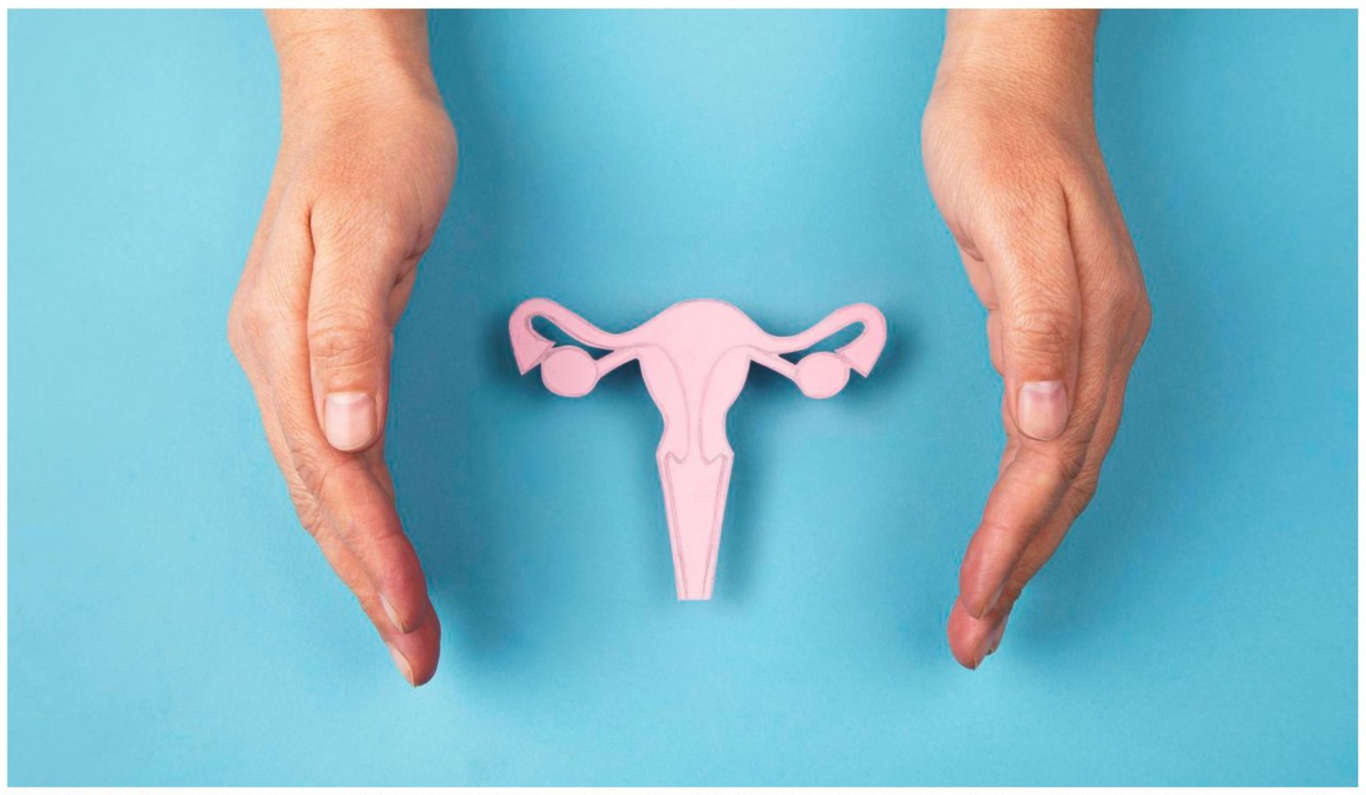
EXPLAINER

Sudipta Datta

The story so far:
The government has announced that it will roll out vaccines for the prevention of cervical cancer to girls aged between 9 and 14 years through schools. The National Technical Advisory Group for Immunisation (NTAGI) had recommended the introduction of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). The UIP is one of the largest public health programmes which offers free vaccines for at least 12 diseases, and has successfully eradicated diseases like polio and maternal and neonatal tetanus.

Why is it important to launch the HPV vaccine?
Cervical cancer is preventable and curable if it is detected early and managed effectively. It is the second most common cancer in women in India, and the cause of a large number of deaths annually. It is caused by infection with the human papillomavirus, and there are vaccines to protect against cancerous HPV. A recent study in *The Lancet* shows that more than 58% of all cases of cervical cancer and deaths globally were estimated in Asia with India accounting for 21% of cases and 23% of deaths, followed by China (18% and 17%). According to the paper, globally, there were an estimated 6,04,127 cervical cancer cases in 2020, with an incidence rate of 13.3 new cases per 1,00,000 women a year. In India, the incidence rate is 18 per 1,00,000 women. The WHO has specified that countries must maintain an incidence rate of fewer than 4 new cases per 1,00,000 women a year by 2030. To achieve that goal, one of the most important things required is that 90% of girls will have to be vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by the age of 15.

When will it be rolled out?
The indigenous HPV vaccine, called CERVAVAC, is likely to be rolled out by mid-2023. The vaccine has got the approval of the Drugs Controller General of India and was cleared by the government advisory panel, NTAGI, for use in the UIP programme. A one-time catch-up vaccine will be given to 9-14 year old adolescent girls, before it is introduced at nine years. States and Union Territories have been asked to issue directives to appropriate authorities for organising HPV vaccination centres in schools.



Worrying trend: Studies indicate that the incidence of cervical cancer is inversely proportional to the human development index of countries. ISTOCKPHOTO

What happens to girls who don't go to school?
The government has clarified that girls who do not attend schools will be given the vaccines by community outreach and mobile health teams. Together with vaccination, screening programmes need to be conducted regularly to detect early signs of the disease that will allow time for treatment. The Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness centres, announced in 2018, are already screening for common cancers like oral, breast and cervical, with over 5 crore women being screened for cervical cancer till November 2022. Screening has to be increased exponentially, say doctors.

What are the challenges?
According to *The Lancet* study, the burden of cervical cancer remains high in Asia and Africa. The study identified substantial geographical and socioeconomic inequalities in cervical cancer globally, with a clear gradient of increasing rates for countries with lower levels of human development. In 2022, India ranked 132 out of 191 countries on the Human Development Index. However, health experts say the fact that India's fertility rate is declining due to a variety of factors, including improved literary rate, increase in the age of marriage and so forth, should prompt everyone in the ecosystem, from the government, doctors to ground level health workers to launch campaigns on cervical cancer awareness, push vaccinations and screening for all girls.

What lies ahead?
Once the vaccine is launched through the UIP, which is a well-oiled network in India, it should reach the maximum number of the targeted population. The surveillance systems and infrastructure used for COVID-19 vaccinations may also be customised to improve HPV vaccination, monitor national cervical screening programmes and improve health system capacity to deliver more efficient preventive services, says *The Lancet* study.

THE GIST

- Cervical cancer is caused by infection with the human papillomavirus and India accounts for 21% of cases and 23% of deaths occurring in the world.
- To tackle this, the government announced the rollout of vaccines for girls aged between 9 and 14 years through schools. Girls who do not attend schools will be given the vaccines by community outreach and mobile health teams.
- The indigenous HPV vaccine, called CERVAVAC, has been cleared by the DGCI and is likely to be rolled out by mid-2023. It will be issued through the Universal Immunisation Programme - one of the largest public health programmes which offers free vaccines for at least 12 diseases.

What is the CAG audit report on Assam's NRC?

In its compliance report tabled before the Assembly, the CAG flagged a host of issues ranging from excess spending and financial irregularities to threats to data security in the NRC exercise carried out in Assam

Sumeda

The story so far:
A recent Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) report on the update exercise of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam has flagged serious irregularities, including "haphazard development" of software for the exercise, making it prone to data tampering, and flagged undue profits worth crores amassed by the system integrator (SI) by violating the Minimum Wages Act. The auditor flagged concerns in a compliance report of 'logistical arrangements for NRC update project in Assam' tabled in the Assam Assembly on December 24.

What is the NRC exercise?
An NRC was first created in 1951 in Assam to identify those born in India and migrants from erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. In 2013, the Supreme Court issued directions to the Centre and State to initiate an exercise in Assam to update the 1951 register. The order was based on a petition filed by an NGO named Assam Public Works. The first draft was released in 2018. The final list, published in 2019, included those who could establish their Indian citizenship by being residents or descendants of people living in Assam before March 25, 1971 – the cut-off date for deportation of foreigners as per the Assam Accord of August 1985. As many as 19.06 lakh people out of 3.3 crore applicants were excluded due to a lack of adequate documents to prove their citizenship. Several parties dismissed the final list as "faulty". Three years later, the process is on pause as the Registrar General of India (RGI) is yet to notify the final list.

What are the CAG's concerns?
At the time, the process to update the NRC was started in December 2014 with a deadline for completion in February 2015 and the project cost was pegged at ₹288.18 crore. There was, however, a five-fold increase in the cost by March 2022 due to additional time to complete it and changes in the update software. "The final draft of the document was, however, published in August 2019 and the project cost escalated to Rs 1,602.66 crore (expenditure of Rs 1,579.78 crore was reported)," mentioned the report. It said that a test check of records revealed irregularities in the utilisation of funds including "excess and inadmissible payment to vendors".

As for irregularities, the CAG found that the amount of wages paid to the outsourced staff was 45.59%-64.27% less than what was approved by the NRC coordination committee. It was this difference in wages that allowed the undue benefit of ₹155.83 crore to the system integrator beyond the 10% "reasonable profit margin", the CAG said. Information technology firm Wipro Limited was entrusted with one of the prime software installation companies by the NRC Directorate.

The CAG noted that secure and reliable software was required for the SC-directed exercise, but as many as 215 software utilities were added to the core software. The report said this was done without following the due process of software development and vendor selection via tendering. The CAG stated that the intended objective of preparing a valid and error-free NRC was not met despite incurring excess expenditure.

What has the CAG recommended?
The country's top auditor sought penal measures against Wipro Limited for violating the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act and for paying data operators less than minimum wages. Secondly, the report recommended action against the State Coordinator of National Registration (SCNR) for "excess, irregular and inadmissible payments". The CAG also recommended fixing accountability of the SCNR as the principal employer for "not ensuring compliance with the Minimum Wage Act".

THE GIST

- In its report, the CAG stated that there was a five-fold increase in the originally planned budget of ₹288.18 crore resulting out of time delays and changes to software.
- The report also found that the amount of wages paid to the outsourced staff was 45.59%-64.27% less than what was approved by the NRC coordination committee.
- The CAG noted that secure and reliable software was required for the SC-directed exercise, but as many as 215 software utilities were added to the core software.

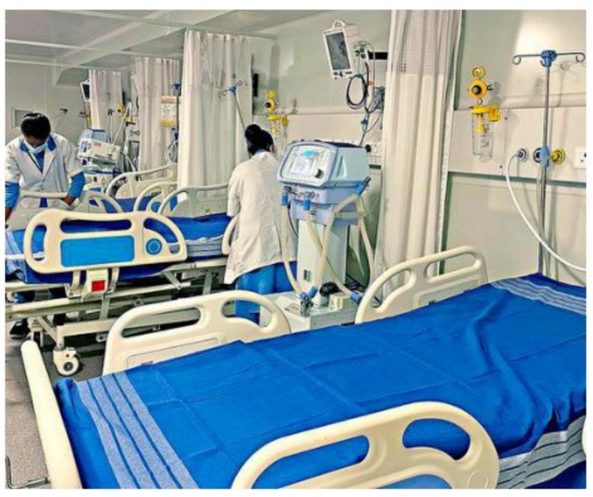
No restrictions on economic activity, says Health Minister

Sudhakar clarifies that as of date, the government has not banned any activity, but precautionary measures such as wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and getting the third dose should be followed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/HUBBALLI

As Karnataka prepares to face a COVID-19 scare, Minister for Health and Family Welfare K. Sudhakar said that there was no proposal to impose any restriction on economic activities as the economy was just reviving after the pandemic, and clarified that the government's priority was lives as well as livelihood.

Speaking in Hubballi, he clarified that as of date the government had not banned any activity. But precautionary measures such as wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and getting the third dose should be followed, he said. "We already have a stock of 8.5 lakh doses of the vaccine. Another 20 to 25 lakh doses will be procured. The Union government is ready to give the vaccine. Vaccination will be increased from the gram panchayat level," he said.



Staff of K.C. General Hospital readying a ward for any eventuality in case of COVID-19 outbreak, in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Meanwhile, the government conducted mock drills in hospitals across the State to prepare them to handle any eventuality in case of an outbreak of COVID-19.

Dr. Sudhakar said he had directed all designated COVID-19 government hospitals in the State to reserve 50 to 60 beds for COVID-19 patients.

Dr. Sudhakar visited the Hubballi Medical College and the Dharwad district hospital in North Karnataka and reviewed the hospital's COVID-19 infrastructure and human resources.

"In the drill we have to check the oxygen facilities, COVID-19 ward, the ICU, doctors and medical staff's availability, and the overall infrastructure to handle any kind of situation," he said.

Meanwhile, over 200 private hospitals in the State also conducted mock drills and submitted the state of infrastructure to the Department of Health and Family Welfare for review.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes' Association (PHANA) president H.M. Prasanna said: "All private hospitals which were earlier designated COVID-19 hospitals today conducted the mock drill. After conducting the drill, we shared all the details, including availability of beds, oxygen supply, human resources, and ICU details, to the State Health Department."

The State government has designated Bowring Hospital in Bengaluru and Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru as quarantine facilities for symptomatic passengers among the 2% of international passengers being randomly tested for COVID-19 in Bengaluru and Mangaluru.

The Minister said that the BF.7 or a new sub-variant/variant of COVID-19 spreads rapidly, but the symptoms are not severe.

"Severity of disease has been reported in foreign countries only in those who have other comorbidities. This is why vulnerable people have been warned to take extra precautions in the guidelines. The elderly and those with other health problems, pregnant women, and children have been advised to avoid crowded areas. Also, everyone will have to wear a mask mandatorily."

On fighting the new variant, he said that already necessary precautions and arrangements had been made.

"Even in case of infections increasing, a system has been kept in place to ensure speedy and quality treatment to the infected. A team of experts and doctors will continuously monitor the situation and readiness will be checked periodically," he said, adding that already mock drills had been conducted at several hospitals across the State.

Pubs and restaurants fear restrictions might affect the New Year cheer

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Stakeholders say business will be affected at least by 20% on an average due to the 1 a.m. deadline. FILE PHOTO

For the third time in a row, business at pubs and resto-bars is expected to be affected on "the biggest night of the year", December 31, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

According to those within the industry, business, even if not on a larger scale, will be affected at least by 20% on an average due to the 1 a.m. deadline.

Most restaurants and pubs across the city have already started enforcing wearing masks and using sanitisers inside their premises.

Pubs and resto-bars are concerned that the time restrictions might make customers apprehensive about coming out. They also said that the curfew will add on to the traffic volume on the streets after 12 a.m. as everyone would want to vacate the venues.

"It (restrictions) is beneficial because everyone will be safe and secure. But these are moments which come once a year and everyone looks forward to celebrating it with pomp. If they ask us to close down the space at a specific time, then it will lead to traffic mounting up and make the situation a little more insecure than it was before. If there were no restrictions, everyone would have moved out in batches post 1 a.m. A little bit of extension would have been good," said Ranveer Sibani of Social chain of restaurants.

The owners also said that that it was difficult to understand why such restrictions were in place in the city, while other metros like Mumbai and Delhi are much relaxed with their norms.

"Typically, this is the most festive season of the year. I do not think that there are such restrictions anywhere else in the country. In other big cities, they have permitted the establishments to be kept open until 3 or 5 a.m.," said Kiran Reddy of Wanderers, a brewery in Kalyan Nagar.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Hoteliers' Association (BBHA) on Tuesday sent out an advisory to all of its members. "As per the new guidelines issued by the BBMP, everyone should wear masks, have sanitisation facilities, and keep the vaccination certificate of all employees ready. It is best if customers are provided hot water and no smoking boards are put up. Let us all cooperate to restrict COVID-19," said P.C. Rao, president, BBHA.

9-month-old murder that was not even reported cracked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cubbon Park police have cracked a nine-month-old kidnap and murder case that was not even reported.

"A member of our team got a tip-off 20 days ago that a person may have been abducted, killed, and his body disposed of in Chickballapur district. We worked on the lead and uncovered the murder from nine months ago. We have booked a *suo motu* case and have arrested the accused," said Srinivas Gowda, DCP (Central Division), Bengaluru.

The deceased has now been identified as H. Sharath Kumar, a conman caught in a debt trap. He had allegedly conned several people in Chickballapur and Yelahanka promising to get them cars under a fictitious government subsidy scheme, said the police.

Some of those who were cheated approached Venkatachalapathy, president of a self-styled Kannada group, who tasked his son, A.V. Sharath Kumar, to collect the money from the conman.

According to the police, A.V. Sharath Kumar and his associates abducted H. Sharath Kumar and held him illegally at his farmhouse in Chickballapur and two other farms, where he was tied up and beaten, leading to his death. The gang disposed of the body, throwing it in Charmadi Ghat, added the police.

Meanwhile, H. Sharath Kumar had told his family that he was fleeing the country and starting a new life to escape from debtors, which resulted in his family not even flagging him as missing since March 2022.

Police efforts to now recover the body have failed. "The accused have said they threw the body into the Charmadi Ghat. We verified records of the area around that time of any unidentified bodies, but found none. We can register a murder case, even when there is no body if there is sufficient evidence pointing to murder," explained Mr. Gowda.

The police have recovered crucial pieces of evidence including the photo of the deceased with his hands and legs tied up, from the mobile of one of the accused.

The police have arrested five persons in connection with the case: A.V. Sharath Kumar, his father H.G. Venkatachalapathy, their associates Dhanush K., R. Sridhar, and M.P. Manjunath.

Voters' data 'theft': BBMP blacklists Chilume Trust

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The trust has been accused of collecting personal information of voters, with its members posing as BBMP officials in some cases

A month after the alleged voters' data theft by the Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust came to light, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Tuesday blacklisted the organisation.

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath in an order said that the NGO, which was conducting a house-to-house survey to help create awareness about Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) earlier, is now barred from service and procurement tender survey or campaigns of the civic body.

In March, 2018, permission was granted by the BBMP to the Chilume Educational Cultural and Rural Development Trust for house-to-house visits to create awareness towards making online applications via the voters' helpline mobile app.

This November 2, the BBMP revoked the trust's permission to carry out the SVEEP campaign after receiving several complaints from residents that the NGO was collecting personal details, while conducting door-to-door surveys by deputing field-level workers.

The trust has been accused of collecting personal information of voters, with its members posing as BBMP officials in some cases.

Five companies score zero points on Fairwork India annual ratings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of five companies - Amazon Flex, Dunzo, Ola, PharmEasy and Uber - secured zero points in the Fairwork India Ratings 2022, a report released on Tuesday on the conditions of gig workers on digital labour platforms.

The top spot was occupied by Urban Company (7/10) followed by BigBasket (6/10) and Flipkart (5/10). The report considered 12 platforms which offer location-based services in various categories in the country and rated them against five principles.

The report was released by Fairwork India team, led by the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP), International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), and in association with Oxford University.

The five principles which were assessed were fair pay, fair conditions, fair contracts, fair management, and fair representation, and each principle was broken down into two points. Often projected as the crucial benefit of gig work, flexibility was chosen as the theme for this year's report.

The report said that the same three companies, which secured the top spots last year, have retained their rankings. FILE PHOTO

"The promise of flexibility of the digital platform economy raises as many questions about livelihoods as it offers opportunities. We hope the Fairwork report provides the basis for an interpretation of flexibility that allows for not merely the adaptability that platforms seek, but also the income and social security that workers lack," said Balaji Parthasarathy and Janaki Srinivasan, principal investigators of the team.

The report said that the same three companies, which secured the top spots last year, have retained their rankings.

"There are two highlights to this year's findings. Firstly, the same three platforms that scored the first point for fair pay last year scored a point this year too. No other platform publicly committed or provided sufficient evidence to ensure that workers earn at least the hourly local minimum wage after work-related costs," said a press release from Fairwork India.

It said: "Secondly, while workers have engaged in various forms of collective action to voice their concerns in the platform economy, platforms have been uncompromisingly unwilling to recognise or negotiate with any collective body representing workers".

Official dies of injuries sustained in road accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A civic health officer succumbed to injuries he sustained in an accident in the city late on Monday night.

The deceased has been identified as Prashanth Nayak, 27, hailing from Arkalgud, Hassan district.

He working as a health officer with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Mr. Nayak was returning home on his bike after midnight on Monday, when the accident occurred.

According to the police, as he was travelling on the Sankey Tank road, he was speeding and lost control over his bike and rammed the footpath. He fell down and sustained severe head injuries.

Though he was immediately rushed to a nearby private hospital, he succumbed to his injuries later.

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Fire Protection Company based in Dubai, specialized in undertaking turnkey jobs in Fire Protection, Fire Alarm & Detection System urgently requires the following:
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2.Fire Protection Estimation Engineers
3.Secretary / Document Controller (Male)
4.CNC Lathe & Punching M/c programmers
AutoCAD Draughtsman for Chennai Office
Minimum Experience required : 2 – 3 years
Please share your CVs immediately to: ibrahim@zenerfire.com

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIW Kumari, spouse of Yamuna Pareet resident of H No.80, 3rd Main, 3rd B Cross, Shivapura, Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063 have changed my name from Shiw Kumari to Shiw Kumari Devi vide affidavit dated 27-12-2022 before Notary H K Gopalagowda, Bengaluru.

I, KASHIF Roshan Huma Sahar, R/a #09, 1st Floor, 7th B Main Road, BTM Layout, 1st Stage, Bangalore - 560029 have changed my name to Huma Sahar vide affidavit dt: 26.12.2022 sworn before Notary A.R.Nagendra, Channapatna Tq, Ramanagara Dist.

I, ADITY D O B 11-12-1980 R/o #353, Ranka Court, Opp to Nilgiris, 18, Cambridge Cross Road, Cambridge Layout, Bengaluru-560006 have changed my name from Aditya to Aditya Singh vide affidavit dt: 27-12-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I B S Jayanth S/O, B R Srinivas R/o #397 14th Main Bsk 2nd Stage have changed my name to Jayanth Bharathi for all purposes

I Sridhar Belur Subrayasetty #195, BEML 7th stage, Mylasandra, Kengeri, Bengaluru 560059, I have changed my daughter's name from Tanisha Sridhar Gane to Tanisha Sridhar Shetty vide affidavit date : 26/12/2022 before notary K V Prema Kumari.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF IVth ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 21)
O.S. NO. 25289/2019
Hg. 15/02/2023
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Sandeep D. ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Ms. Mathew Ann Kritika,
...DEFENDANT
Summons
Ms. Mathew Ann Kritika
D/o. Jocob Mathew
Aged about 32 years,
No. 188/1, Rahul Nilayam,
Thimmarayappa Garden,
Dodigunta, Cox Town,
St. Alosious College,
Bangalore- 560005.
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 4,14,536.24/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred and Thirty Six and Paise Twenty Four Only) apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in O.S. No. 25289/2019 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 21, Before Addl., City Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 15th Day of February, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 10th day of November, 2022.
By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall
Bengaluru- 560 001
Fx & Co.,
Advocates,
New No.9 Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 26th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-20)
O.S. NO. 26503/2019
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G ...PLAINTIFF
AND
Mr. NAGARAJ B M
...DEFENDANT
Summons
Mr. NAGARAJ B M
S/o Mahalingaiah,
Aged about 42 years,
31/2,12th Cross, B K Nagar,
2nd Main, Yeswanthpur,
BANGALORE- 560 022.
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 3,99,596.66/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Ninety Six and Paise Sixty Six only), apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in O.S. No. 26503/2019 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 20, Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 13th Day of February, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 22nd day of December, 2022.
By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
BENGALURU- 560 001
FX & Co., ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
BENGALURU- 560 005

IN THE COURT OF 28th ADDL, CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-29)
O.S. NO. 25366/2020
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
AND
Ms. Putta Lavanya
...Defendant
Summons
Ms. Putta Lavanya
D/o. Jagannatham Aged about 33 age No. 123/1, 1st Main, Karyanapalya, Chadrashekarra Institute, Lingarajpuram, Bangalore- 560084.
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 2,80,274.66/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Eighty Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Four and Paise Sixty Six Only), apart from future interest of 15.49% p.a., in O.S. No. 25366/2020 and same is pending adjudication in CCH - 29, Before Addl. City Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 27th Day of February, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 17th day of December, 2022
By Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall
Bengaluru- 560 001
FX & Co.,
Advocates,
New No.9 Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 005.

BIBLIO

When Agra was the centre of Hindustan and Kohinoor's home

With the city a 'political paradise' for the Mughals, there's more to the place than its most famous citadel, the Taj Mahal, say writers

Ziya Us Salam

John Lall opens his tribute to Agra and its most famous monument, the Taj Mahal, in the book, *Taj Mahal and Mughal Agra* with the words, "Unknown to the people of Agra, the destiny of their city hung on the issue of a dynastic struggle in Central Asia. The year was 1483. A son had just been born to the wife of Omar Sheikh, the Timurid ruler of Farghana. He was given the name Zahir-ud-din Muhammad, but finding it difficult to pronounce, his father's nobles called him simply, Babur or Tiger." Some 43 years later, Babur set foot in Agra. It was to herald the golden age in the history of the city. Babur noted the precise moment in his memoirs, *Baburnama*, "I entered Agra at the Afternoon [Prayer of Thursday (28 Rajab) and dismounted at the manzil of Sultan Ibrahim."

Of course, this little note came following Babur's victory over the Lodi king, Ibrahim Lodi, in the First Battle of Panipat in 1526. What was a significant moment for Babur in his quest for a kingdom all his own was to turn into a giant leap for his progeny, notably his grandson Jalaluddin Akbar. By then, Agra had gained such importance that Akbar's biographer, Abul Fazl, noted, "Agra was the centre of Hindustan. I have had to stay very close to it."

Incidentally, Babur was not a Mughal. He was a Turk, and the dynasty he founded was that of the Timurids. The name Mughal was misleading but stuck to the family. It came to include the Turks and the Mongols. For all his military prowess displayed at Panipat, Babur was not the first Turk/Mughal to set foot in Agra. That honour went to his son, Humayun, whom he had despatched with a handful of nobles to Delhi and Agra to safeguard the treasuries before the Mughals arrived. The Rajputs had built a fort called Badalgarh, and in 1504, Sikander Lodi had stored his treasure here, and even transferred the capital from Delhi to Agra. Soon enough, Agra itself was to become a treasure.

Luck strikes

Humayun was in luck in Agra. He laid his hands on the famous Kohinoor here. Wrote Babur in *Baburnama* (abridged and edited by Dilip Hiro), "The reputation of the diamond, later to be called Kohinour (Mountain of Light), was that every appraiser had estimated its value at two-and-a-half days' food for the whole world. Humayun offered the famous diamond to me when I arrived at Agra. I just gave it back to him."

The jewel remained with the Mughals before it fell into the hands of Maharaja Ranjit Singh during the time of latter Mughals. Shortly afterwards, the British annexed Punjab, and the jewel was sent to Queen Victoria. Incidentally, Humayun had the *khutba* read in his name in Agra on December 29, 1530, four days after Babur had passed away. After his death, Babur came to be called Firdaus Makani or the Dweller of Paradise. Was it because he spent the last years of his life in Agra? Nobody knows, suffice to say, Agra was to Mughals nothing short of a political paradise.

Bid to end conflicts

For Akbar, it really came close. With Agra as his capital, Akbar ruled for almost 50 years, and even had the perspicacity to build Ibadat Khana in the neighbouring Fatehpur Sikri in 1575 besides the fort in Agra. For all his military prowess, Akbar had a spiritual bent of mind. As Manimugdha Sharma writes in *Allahu Akbar*, "Ibadat Khana was a bid to end conflicts among rival religions by creating a middle ground...Badaoni says the building was constructed around what was once the room of Sheikh Abdullah Niyazi Sirhind, a disciple of Shaikh Salim Chishti who later became a devotee of Lord Shiva." Ibadat Khan had space for scholars of all faiths. Noted historian Prof Ali Nadeem Rezavi, in his book, *Fatehpuri Sikri Revisited*, recalls, "Abul Fazl gives a list of the faiths that were represented. There were Sunnis, Shias, Brahmins, Jains, Charvakas, Christians, Jews, Sabians, Zoroastrians and others."

With all the glory and wisdom of the Mughals, Agra remained the second capital of India from 1504 to 1658. Abul Fazl called it Darul Khilafat, and Delhi was Darul Sultanat.

With all the glory and wisdom of the Mughals, Agra remained the second capital of India from 1504 to 1658. Abul Fazl called it Darul Khilafat, and Delhi was Darul Sultanat. Besides the Great Mughals, Afghans and the Lodis ruled from here. Yet Agra today is renowned for being the last resting place of Arjumand Bano Begum, Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's wife, better known as Mumtaz Mahal. The queen bore 14 children and died while giving birth to the 14th child in 1631. Her last hours were well described by Mullah Abdul Hamid Lahori in the Badshah Nama and Mohammed Saleh in Amal-e-Saleh. Mumtaz's body was initially interred in a temporary grave in the garden of Raja Man Singh. Inside the Taj Mahal, essentially a garden tomb, the empress was to rest in the centre and her husband joined by her side in 1666. The work for the mausoleum started in 1632. Ismail Khan of Turkey built the two-shell dome. Lall recalls, "The Tarikh-i-Taj Mahal ascribes passages from the Quran, inscribed in Naskh characters on different parts of the monument, to the celebrated calligraphist, Amanat Khan Shirazi. The mastermason was Muhammad Hanif from Baghdad who was paid ₹1,000 a month. Kayam Khan, the pinnacle maker, who was from Lahore, was paid ₹695....The Badshah Nama of Abdul Hamid Lahori puts the cost of the completed monument at ₹50 lakh."

The Mughals are long consigned to history but Agra lives on, now a bustling city known for its leather craftsmen. And the Taj Mahal continues to be the nation's pride.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on the Indian National Congress

Sindhu Nagaraj

On December 28, 1885, the Indian National Congress was founded in Bombay, with A.O. Hume as its General Secretary. Here is a quiz on the history of the party.

QUESTION 1

This organisation was founded by a Liberal Party MP in the British House of Commons in 1866, as a predecessor of the Indian National Congress to put across the Indian point of view before the British public. Name the organisation and the MP.

QUESTION 2

This party arose out of the need for the political representation of Muslims in British India, especially during the Congress-sponsored massive Hindu opposition to the 1905 partition of Bengal. Name the party.

QUESTION 3

Allan Octavian Hume, the founder of the Indian National Congress, also had a keen interest in another area, along with being a civil servant and a political reformer. What was it? He also has a title bestowed on him for his contribution to this field. Name the title and a journal he founded, related to the field.

QUESTION 4

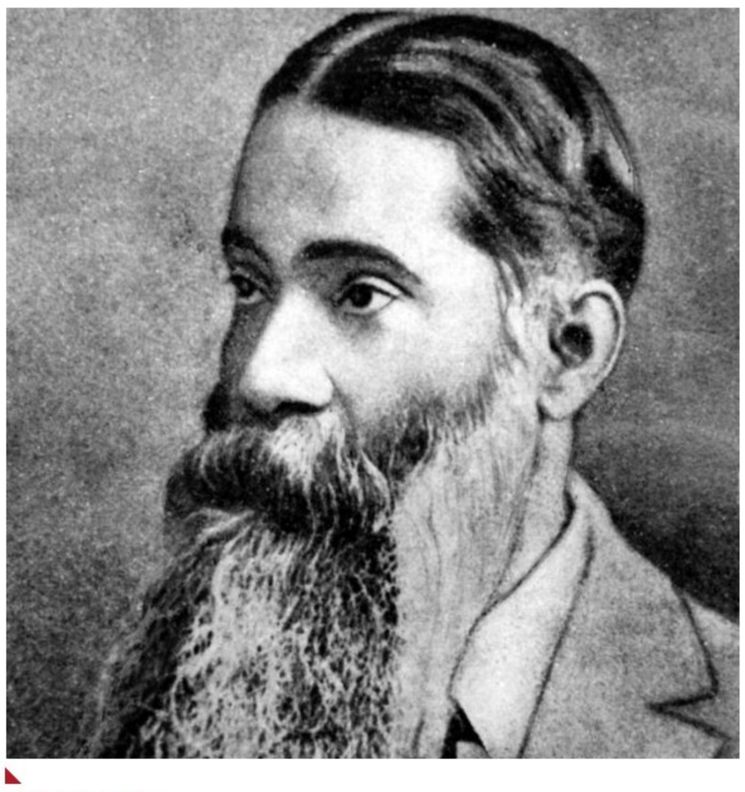
At the Congress 1929 Lahore session, under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, a party goal was declared. Name the goal and the day associated with it.

QUESTION 5

This was the first Satyagraha movement led by Mahatma Gandhi in British India and is considered a historically important rebellion in the Indian Independence Movement. Supported by the Congress, this was followed by another movement in 1918, in Gujarat, to support peasants who were unable to pay the revenue because of famine and plague epidemic. Name the two Satyagrahas.

QUESTION 6

He was an Indian politician, noted particularly for holding the presidency of the Indian National Congress during the transfer of power in 1947. General Secretary of the Congress party for over a decade, his wife was India's first female Chief Minister. Name the politician.



Visual question:
Identify this leader, who was closely associated with the Indian National Congress. What was his position in the party?

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

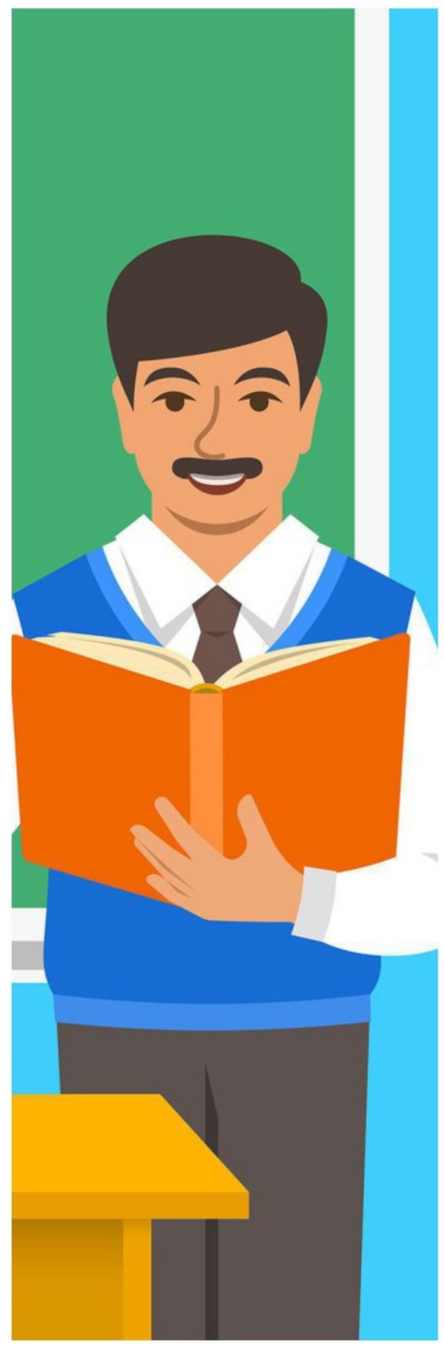
Questions (abridged) and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. In Spain, which region's head of government is called the Lehendakari in its native language? And what is the native language? **Ans: Basque region. Euskara language**
2. Fidel Castro originated from this region of Spain and came to Cuba first as a conscript of the Spanish military. The former Uruguayan president Tabare Vasquez has ancestors from this region. Name the region. **Ans: Galicia**
3. The name of this province originates from an Arabic word derived from the name of the Vandals, a Germanic people who first inhabited what is now the southern part of Poland in second century BC and later migrated into North Africa. Name the province **Ans: Andalusia**
4. In 2021, Amartya Sen won this award that is named after the heir apparent to the throne of Spain and contains the name of a province in it. Name the award and the province. **Ans: Princess of Asturias award, Asturias**
5. Tennis player Rafael Nadal is from this province. Name it. **Ans: Balearic Islands**

Visual: Name the autonomous community whose flag is shown in picture. **Ans: Catalonia**

Early Birds

Bijo Paul — K.N. Viswanathan — Ravindra Kumar Sahu — Apoorva Maniktala



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

Dr. R. Narayanaswamy of Madras wants to know whether the sentence "Please stand by for the next programme" is correct. He is worried about the use of "stand by."

The sentence is correct: "stand by" means "to remain tuned in to a station until it starts sending messages." "Please stand by" for an important announcement. "Stand by" also means "to stand near, look on without interfering." He stood by watching the fight. Another meaning of "stand by" is "to remain loyal or faithful." He stood by me in the crisis. They stood by me through all my difficulties. She did not let us down. She stood by her promise.

Mr. B. Sundar Kumar of Madra wants to know how "Messrs" is used.

"Messrs" is used as the plural of Mr. before a list of men's names. Messrs Ram, Kishen and Govind. "Messrs" is also used before companies of firms trading under impersonal names. Do not write Messrs Five Star & Co., Ltd/ "Messrs" is pronounced *mesaz*. "Mez" rhymes with "cess" and "less." the 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in "China."

Several readers want to know the meaning of "He is not able to see the wood for the trees."

it means that he is not able to see the wood or the forest, as he pays a lot of attention to the individual trees. When you pay attention to individual trees, you miss the beauty of the forest as a whole. When a person pays a lot of attention to details, he will not be able to see the overall picture. Anyone who gets lost in details will not be able to see the whole patters. In such contexts, you use this idiom. Too much attention to details will make one forget the main thing. When you get lost in details, you lose the view of the whole.

Word of the day

Intrepid:
fearless, adventurous

Synonyms: bold

Usage:
He was an intrepid explorer.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/intrepidpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪn'trepɪd/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

The pandemic years to impact hiring in 2023

With job seekers having recalibrated the "instruments" for evaluating organisations, employers have to revisit their hiring strategies in the new year

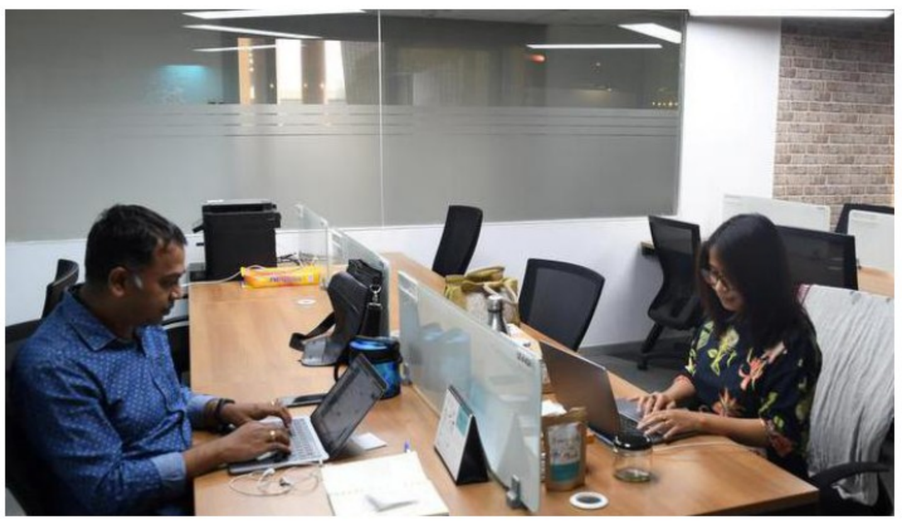


PHOTO USED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

The corporate landscape may now be considered irrevocably remoulded, the pandemic having spun the potter's wheel. While a discussion on how much of the work can be done in the living room is an obvious addition to policy deliberations, the less obvious and more compelling question has to do with the larger expectations from work. The pandemic underscored not only the brittleness of life, but also that of occupational edifices. At the height of the pandemic, organisations had to let go of employees, which caused workforces to recalibrate their loyalty to their organisations. The work climate and the time they had at their disposal during the pandemic also enabled employees to take a pause and re-evaluate their strengths and aspirations, leading many to change tack, some doing so after reskilling or upskilling themselves.

Besides, work from home – which translated to "working from hometowns" for some – had forever planted in employees a confidence that greater work-life balance can be achieved. Employees began to seek work systems that would be entirely output-based, and wanted all the unnecessary frills, those that ended up consuming time without any productivity to show for it, to be thrown out the corporate window. The expectation that the workplace place a premium on employees' well-being, including mental health, skyrocketed. From these expectations have sprung new paradigms of an ideal workplace and and a meaningful career, and they have become the benchmark for employees to evaluate their organisations and work.

New findings from Indeed's quarterly (October-December 2022) hiring tracker shows how well-entrenched these new paradigms have become.

Close to 65% of the jobseekers and employees surveyed by the Indeed study note the climate of layoffs has fuelled demotivation among the workforce, and is preventing them from fully committing themselves to their current job. Another finding is that more than half of the workforce (57%) are unenthusiastic about their current jobs, with over 50% of them preparing for new opportunities by reskilling or upskilling themselves. While happiness and flexibility are the main priorities for more than 25% of employees, 19% have indicated that a good work-life balance is what they are looking for.

The year ahead

More than 40% of employers surveyed said they are optimistic about their hiring activity during 2023 and foresee a 20% increase in hiring. However, 18% of the employers surveyed single out inflation as the one thing to be on the lookout for in 2023. And 15% of employers note that the ongoing layoffs and its impact on the morale of the workforce to be of major concern, in the context of hiring in 2023. In the coming year, employers will also be keen to step up their hiring practices. Close to 35% of the employers surveyed look forward to adopting AI/ digital/ social media for talent acquisition and 26% plan to explore hyperlocal/ niche job boards.

A retrospective look

Forty-five percent of the employers surveyed reported to have hired cautiously during 2022 with the year also ending with slower hiring in the last quarter. About two out of every

Forty-five percent of the employers surveyed reported to have hired cautiously during 2022 with the year also ending with slower hiring in the last quarter

three employers (64% of those surveyed) hired between October and December. This marks a significant dip (down from 78%) and reflects a slower pace of hiring activity compared to the previous two quarters, likely caused by global economic shifts, says a summary from Indeed about the findings from the study.

Year 2022 also witnessed a galloping demand for technology skills. The top-hired roles during the period October-December 2022 are: DevOps engineers (22%), Data Scientists (18%), Data Engineers (14%) and Game Developers (13%). In terms of non-technical skills, communication skills (31%), creativity (19%), and complex problem-solving (12%) were at the top during the afore-mentioned period.

Study methodology

This survey is said to have been conducted by Valuvox on behalf of Indeed amongst 1,227 employers and 1,490 jobseekers and employees during the months of October to December, 2022. The survey respondents were segregated into cities, and further categorised into large, medium, and small organisations, and then into sectors.

GENERAL

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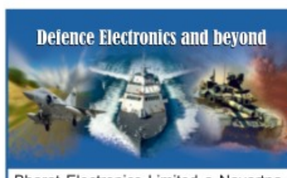
- Application with latest colour photo and copies of qualification and experience must be sent on or before **05-01-2023** to: **Administrative Officer, GSSS (R), KRS Road, Metagalli, Mysuru - 570 016.**

Dr. M. Jagannatha Shenoi, President | www.geethashishu.in | Smt. Vanaja B. Pandit, Hon. Secretary

ENGG./PRODN./TECH.



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- English & Soft Skills

Staff Positions
- IT Manager
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- Placement Officer / Assistant Placement Officer
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- Hostel Manager / Hostel Supervisor

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To apply, send email to **careers@vitbhopal.ac.in**

LAST DATE TO APPLY 17th January, 2023

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HPCL RAJASTHAN REFINERY LIMITED
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Commencement of online application: 27th December 2022
Last date of online application: 26th January 2023

Wear reusable face cover or mask | Wash hands frequently and thoroughly | Maintain Physical Distance (2 Gaj ki Doori (6 feet))

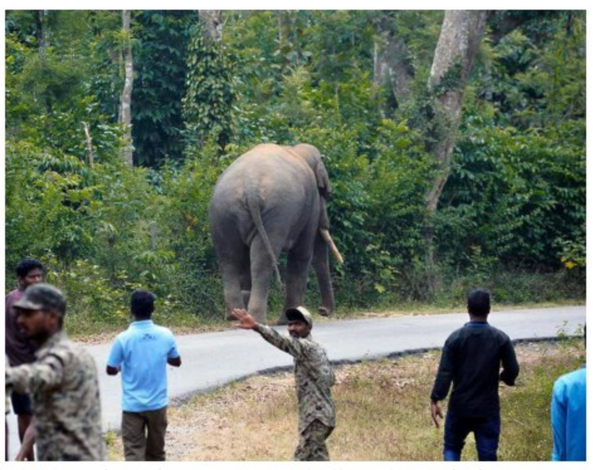
For details and to apply online visit career page of our website
https://hrrl.in/current-openings
Any further corrigendum / addendum would be uploaded only on our website

A never ending conflict of man versus wild in Karnataka

There were several instances of elephant attacks on humans in Hassan, Kodagu, and Chikkamagaluru and some resulted in human deaths also and there were also leopard attacks this year in the districts of Dharwad, Belagavi, and Tumakuru

REWIND 2022

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU


In Hassan alone, there were seven deaths owing to elephant attacks, with a majority of them reported at Sakleshpur taluk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While Karnataka is no stranger to man-animal conflicts, 2022 saw numerous instances of encounters between humans and wildlife, particularly involving elephants and leopards, which also resulted in a few deaths.

While there were several instances of elephant attacks on humans in Hassan, Kodagu, and Chikkamagaluru, some resulted in human deaths in these districts.

In Hassan alone, there were seven deaths owing to elephant attacks, with a majority of them reported at Sakleshpur taluk.

In the last 10 years, over 75 deaths have occurred due to elephant attacks in the district and locals have been demanding a permanent solution to end the man-animal conflict.

At Hullumane village in Mudigere taluk of Chikkamagaluru district, following the death of a 45-year-old woman due to an elephant attack, the locals were so enraged that the MLA of the constituency, M.P. Kumaraswamy, was allegedly attacked when he went to the village.

In order to address the jumbo menace, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai recently announced that the government will relocate 65 wild elephants from the Alur-Sakleshpur-Belur region in a phased manner.

Besides this, the government has also doubled the solatium for death caused by wild elephant attacks.

The Chief Minister, who also holds the Forest Ministry portfolio, also announced that compensation would be raised from ₹7.5 lakh to ₹15 lakh. Compensation for permanent disability and partial disability caused by jumbo attacks has also been raised to ₹10 lakh and ₹5 lakh, respectively.

Likewise, for injuries also, there is a hike from ₹30,000 to ₹60,000.

In the ongoing man versus wild, the animals have also been at the receiving end. A few days ago, elephant Balarama, who carried the golden howdah during Mysuru Dasara on 13 occasions, was shot at by a farmer. However, the pellets only bruised the jumbo and it escaped with minor injuries.

A female elephant was also killed by a truck inside the Bandipur tiger reserve. Also, this year, Bhogeshwara, an elephant which was known for its long tusks and frequently sighted at the Kabini backwaters, died of natural causes.

LEOPARDS ON THE PROWL

There were also instances of leopard attacks on human beings this year, which occurred in the districts of Dharwad, Belagavi, and Tumakuru. The year also saw casualties owing to leopard attacks; two students were killed in separate incidents in Mysuru district.

Following a massive combing and tracking operations which went on for nearly seven weeks, a leopard, which is suspected to have killed the two students, was captured.

Similarly, a farmer was killed in a leopard attack in Chamarajanagar in September.

Leopard attacks and sightings were also reported in and around Bengaluru. In the last week of November, two leopards were on the prowl on the outskirts of the city: one in the vicinity of Banashankari 6th Stage that had also killed a spotted deer in the Turahalli State Forest Area and another was spotted near Chikkajala on the Kempegowda International Airport Road.

Sightings of these big cats evoked fear among the locals living in these areas for a few days, as they remained elusive to the traps set up by the Forest Department.

According to conservation biologist Sanjay Gubbi, leopards are naturally found in the U.M. Kaval, Roerich Estate, the T.K. Falls, Gollahalligudda, and adjoining areas as these forests are further connected to Bannerghatta National Park, and it is natural to find leopards in these areas.

Hesaraghatta grassland

The Hesaraghatta grassland was also in the news during the year as one section of people, comprising environmentalists and activists, wanted it to be declared as a conservation reserve, while other, like the local residents and cattle herders, opposed it.

In 2021, the Forest Department proposed before the State Board for Wildlife to declare 5,010 acres as grasslands as a conservation reserve which was rejected by the board.

It was alleged that an MLA from the ruling party had influenced the decision. However, in July this year, the High Court directed the State Board for Wildlife to reconsider the proposal to declare the grasslands as a conservation reserve.

Following this, there were volunteer meets and signature campaigns organised by activists and environmentalists who have been batting for the grasslands to be declared a reserve.

In November, Mr. Bommai, after chairing a meeting of the Karnataka State Wildlife Board, directed the Forest Department to conduct public consultation before declaring the grassland as a conservation reserve.

'Will register case if anyone complains about Pragya Thakur's comments'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Police will book a case against BJP Lok Sabha member Pragya Thakur for her allegedly inflammatory statements in Shivamogga on December 25 only if any aggrieved person files a complaint, said Shivamogga Superintendent of Police G.K. Mithun Kumar.

Speaking to *The Hindu* over phone, Mr. Mithun Kumar said the police would not book a case suo motu. "So far, we have not received any complaint against the Lok Sabha member. If someone files a case, we will take action as per the law," he said on December 27.

Ms. Pragya Thakur, during her visit to Shivamogga on December 25, appealed to the Hindus to keep 'knives sharpened' to protect themselves and also protect girls from 'Love Jihad'. "Everybody has right of self-defense. Knives used to cut vegetables should be kept sharp. They will be helpful," she said.

The MP representing Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh said Hindus should teach Hindu culture to their children, adding that children should not be sent to educational institutions run by missionaries. "Stop sending your children to missionaries. If you do so, you will be opening old-age homes for yourselves. Your children will become selfish and will not take care of you," she said.

She delivered the keynote address at the annual convention of Hindu Jagaran Vedike in Shivamogga. She also visited the residence of Hindu activist Harsha, who was murdered earlier this year in Shivamogga.

Her statements have been condemned by many people on social media. Many have appealed to the police to register a case against her.

Modi's brother, family injured in accident near Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Prahlad Modi, brother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and his family members were injured when the car in which they were travelling met with an accident on the Mysuru-Nanjangud highway on Tuesday.

The Mysuru South police, which confirmed the incident, said the car passengers were shifted to a hospital and described the injuries as minor in nature without divulging any other details. The injured were shifted to JSS Hospital.

It is learnt that Prahlad Modi was travelling to Bandipur along with son Mehul Prahalad Joshi, his wife, and their child when the vehicle hit a road divider at Kadakola close to Nanjangud, around 2 p.m.

Mysuru MP Mr. Pratap Simha, who called on the injured, later told *The Hindu* that there was no cause for worry and Mr. Modi, his son and daughter-in-law suffered minor bruises. However, Mr. Prahlad Modi's grandchild suffered a fracture, he added. The accident took place when the driver felt drowsy and hit the divider, Mr.Simha added.

Meanwhile, Mysuru SP Ms. Seema Latkar and other senior police officials visited the accident spot and took stock of the incident.

The vehicle in which Mr. Prahlad Modi was travelling suffered major dents in the front and was mangled.

The Mysuru South police have registered a case and are investigating.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 13124/CALL-3 Dated: 22.12.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)
Tenders are invited from reputed companies/ agencies through e-tendering portal for the work of **Reconditioning of released CVP Rotor (impeller and shaft) assembly including supply of spares, consumables, servicing and fitment at site**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 22,10,820/-**. EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-**. Interested bidders may submit the bids through e-Tendering website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** only. Last date for submission of bids (Two Parts): **06.01.2023, 16.00 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bid (Part 1): **07.01.2023, 16.30 Hrs.** Opening of Financial Bid (Part 2): **09.01.2023, 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the Office of the **Executive Engineer (TM-2),** KPCL, RTPS, Shakthinagar-584170, Raichur Dist. Tel: 08532-246125. Mob: 94495 96540.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Ballari Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
NO.:KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT13034/CALL-4 Date:23.12.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement portal only) (Two Cover System)
Bids are invited through GOK e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from qualified agencies for the work of **Providing and Erection of Guide Supports / Brackets for ThyssenKrupp lift installed at Technical Building at BTPS.** Last date and time for submission of bids**: 07.01.2023 upto 17.30hrs**. Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (CAM-1),** BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583 152. Ballari Dist. Mob: 9448290572.

Government of Karnataka
Panchayath Raj Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer, Hassan Division Hassan.
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO -11/2022-23 Dated:26.12.2022
The Executive Engineer, P.R.E Division Hassan, on behalf of Governer of Karnataka has invited tender through e-procurement www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in under Head of 2022-23 Viveka Yojane, 2022-23 MLA Grant, 2020-21 Adharsh grama Yojane and MADB as per KW-1,2,3. The Contractor can have access to e-procurement documents from 28.12.2022 upto 06.01.2023 at 4.00 P.M. Last date for Submission of completed e-procurement documents upto 06.01.2023 upto 4.00 PM. Technical/Finacial Bid of KW-1,2,3 Works will be opened on 09.01.2023 after 4.00P.M. The opening of KW-3 Financial Bid will be notified after the approval of Technical bid. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said works can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website. **sd/- Executive Engineer,**
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಂ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/898/2022–23 **P.R.E.Division, Hassan.**

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O & M Circle, Kunjibettu, Udupi - 576102.
Ph: 0820–2535040 / 2525040, Email: seeudupi16@gmail.com
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
Ref. No. SEE/UDP/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-78/2022-23/9130 Date: 24.12.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
MESCOM invites tenders from eligible Bidders/Agencies for the following services in Udupi O&M Circle.

Sl. No.	Description	Tender No.	Estimated Tender Amount (Rs. In Lakhs)
1.	**Providing 04 No.s of Security Guards service to MESCOM Karkala Divisional Store Building for a period of ONE year on outsource basis.**	MESCOM/SEE/UDP/EE(O)/2022-23/S-03/CALL-2	10.34

The bids will be received through Electronic (E-tendering) mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 28.12.2022**. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.), O & M Circle, Udupi
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my clients are interested to purchase the Property which is morefully described in the schedule Property hereunder from its Site owner namely **Smt. Sushma Devalapur** w/o Babu Devalapur, Aged about 44 years Residing at House No. 86, Ward No. 28, Ex Service Men Colony, Opp. to Park, Belagal Cross, VTC : Bellary, Po: Bellary Cowl Bazar, Sub District : Hagaribommanahalli, District : Ballari, State : Karnataka- 583102
Any person/s having claim, title or interest over the schedule property or any objection to the proposed purchase, may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY
ALL that Piece and Parcel of Immovable Property bearing **Site No. 359, New BBMP Khatha No. 214/359, in "M.S.RAMAIAH NORTH CITY" Situated in land bearing Sy.Nos.118/1, and 2, 119, 120, 125/1, 125/2, 125/3A, 125/3B, 125/4, 126/1 to 6, 127, 128/1A, 128/1/B, 128/1C, 128/1D, 128/1E, 128/2, 128/3, 129/1 to 5, 130/1, 130/2, 134/1(P), 149 and 150 of Nagawara Village,** Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now Comes Under The Jurisdiction of **Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (B.B.M.P), Ward No.6,** Measuring East To West : 60 Feet And North To South : 50 Feet, Total Measuring 3000 Square Feet, with all the appurtenances whether underneath the soil or above the surface, and bounded as follows : East by : Site Nos. 325 and 326, West by : Road , North by : Road, South by : Site No. 358
Sd/- Ms. Shawar, Advocate
Shop No 1, #783, Old No: 8/10,& 8/11, Sub - Register Office Building JMJ Hospital Road, Nagawara, Bangalore 560045, Ph : 9980727146

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DEPARMENT
Office of The Executive Engineer,
R.D.W & S, Division, Haveri
Sl.No.RDW&SD/Haveri/PB-1/Tender:34/2022-23/2053
Date : 26-12-2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(1) Request of Blank Tender Documents and Receipt of completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement from : **07-01-2023** at: 17:30 hours (2) Date of Technical Bid Opening (If possible) : **09-01-2023** @ 10:00 hours (3) Date of Financial Bid Opening (If possible) : **10-01-2023** @ 10:00 hours (4) Date of Pre bid meeting at Executive Engineer, R.D.W & S Division, Haveri : **02-01-2023** @ 11:00 hours
Inviting tenders of Water Supply works of Ranebennur, Savanur & Shiggaon Taluks under NRDWP JJM scheme.
Indent No :- (1) 53407 (2) 53408 (3) 52994 (4) 53409 (5) 53410 (6) 53412 (7) 53413 (8) 53481 (9) 52995
The blank tender documents can be downloaded through website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from the date of hosting the tender.
DIPR/HVR/MC&A/450/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, R.D.W&S Division, Haveri**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, RAMANAGARA
RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DIVISION, RAMANAGARA
Re-Tender Notification No. 53/EE/RDW&SD/RMG/TENDER/ AE-2/ JJM/1928-1937/2022-23/Call-2 Date : 23.12.2022
The RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION Division Ramanagara is inviting on behalf of Governor of Karnataka State under Single & Two cover bid system as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 - STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-2 & KW-3 for water supply works **under JJM** through e-procurement from Registered Contractors as per the schedule given below.
* **Max Amount Put to Tender : Rs. 81.35 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 1.63 Lakhs**
* **Min Amount Put to Tender : Rs. 43.37 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 87000.00/-**
* **Period of Contract: 06 Months**
* **Last Date for submission of Tender: 07.01.2023 Upto 5.30 PM**
* **Opening of Technical Bid of the Tender: 09.01.2023 at 11.00 AM onwards**
* **Opening of Financial Bid of the Tender: 11.01.2023 at 11.00 AM onwards.**

For further particulars / details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
RDW&S Division, Ramanagara.

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka enterprise)
Executive Engineer,VJNL, UBP, Division No.04, Hosadurga
Ph/Fax No: 08199 – 230018 e.mail I.D: eeubpdvn4@gmail.com
No: EE/UBP/VJNL/DIV-04/SB/TD.NO.26/2022-23 Date: 23.12.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Only through E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM)
Percentage tender through e-portal in Two cover system is invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 4 Hosadurga on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, from the eligible contractors who fulfils the pre-qualification conditions for the works "**Indent no:-2253 call-2" for Rs.160.75 lakhs.** The Contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents through e-procurement website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **23.12.2022**. For the work Pre bid meeting will be held on **28/12/2022** on O/o Chief Engineer, VJNL, UBP Zone, Chitradurga at **11.00 hrs.** Details such as Amount put to tender/ EMD amount/ qualification of Bidders/ Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc can be obtained through e-procurement or from the office of the under signed during the office hours up to **27.12.2022**. The date for submission of completed tenders is **31.12.2022** upto **16.00 hrs.** The tender will be opened on **02.01.2023 @ 11.00 hrs** at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.04, Hosadurga through e-procurement. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the qualified bidders. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not bound to accept the lowest tender.
Note: EPF Registration Certificate is mandatory; the tenders of the bidder who fails to upload EPF Registration Certificate will be disqualified.
DIPR/CTA/MCA/806/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division,Almatti-586201.
Tq:B.Bagewadi Dt: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-281044.
No: KBJNL/ALBC-DN/DM/TND/DH-SCP-TSP/2022-23/2546
Date: 21.12.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)
On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, ALBC Division Almatti the under undersigned invites tender on **turnkey Basis** in Single cover system in **KW-1 & KW-2** documents from **KPWD Class-II and above** registered contractors for the work **Providing Irrigation facilities by drilling bore well under SCP and TSP for the year 2021-22 pertains to D. Hipparagi Constituency. Indent No. 23262, 23263 and 23260**. Approx. amount put to tender: **Rs. 61.55 lakhs**.
The contractor can have access and submission of completed e-tender document of from **26.12.2022 to 04.01.2023**up to 5.00 pm. The Cover –I (Technical bid & Financial bid) will be opened in the under signed office on **06.01.2023** at 11.00 AM.
The rights of acceptance/rejection of tender at any time, without giving any reason had with undersigned. Further information about electronic tendering can be had from http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/ines.seam and www.kbjnl.karnataka.gov.in **and can be had from the office of undersigned during office hours.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, ALBC Division, Almatti
ಪಾಸಾಸಂಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/700/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್.ಹೈಟೆಕ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಮನಗರ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಕ್ಕ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ–577005 ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 237833
ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 08192 230919 e mail : dhodavangere@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಜಿಆದಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಲೈಟ್ಸ್/01/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23/12/2022
ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ, ಕಛೇರಿ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಅಧೀನ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅತೀ ಅವಶ್ಯಕವಾಗಿ ತುರ್ತಾಗಿ ಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ STAND ALONE SYSTEM SOLAR POWER PLANT SYSTEMS ಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಇ–**ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್** ಮೂಲಕ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್** ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) TENDER REFERENCE NO:DHODVG/Tender/ SOLAR LIGHTS/01/2022-23, DATE:23-12-2022 (2) DATE AND TIME OF ACCESSING TENDER DOCUMENT 23-12-2022 (3) Amount put to tender. Rs. 90.00 Lakhs (Ninety Lakhs Only). (4) EMD Amount Rs.2,25,000=00 (5) LAST DATE AND TIME FORRECEIPT OF TENDER 02-01-2023, 05:30 PM (6) TIME AND DATE OF OPENINGOF TECHNICAL BID 03-01-2023, 05:30 PM (7) EQUIPMENTS DEMONSTRATION TO BE MADE ON SHALL BE INTIMATED IN DUE COURSE (8) TIME AND DATE OF OPENINGOF FINANCIAL BID SHALL BE INTIMATED IN DUE COURSE (9) ADDRESS FOR COMMUNICATION District Health and Family Welfare Office, Sriramanagar road, Near NCC Camp,Davanagere-577005
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿಎಜಿ/741/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23 ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/T(W&M)/MYS/EEE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/5323-5329 Date: 26.12.2022
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)
KPTCL invites bids for the below mentioned bid enquiry Nos on Partial Turnkey Basis.
(1) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/21 for Replacement of 2x8MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 2x12.5MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV Mahadeshwarapura sub-station in Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District.
(2) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/13 for Replacement of 1x6.3MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x8MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer at Doddabyadarahalli 66/11KV sub-station in Pandavapura Taluk, Mandya District.
(3) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/28 for Replacement of 2nd 1x12.5MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer at 66/11KV KIADB Mandya sub-station in Mandya Taluk & District.
(4) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/32 for Replacement of 1x6.3MVA by 1x8MVA Transformer, 66/11KV sub-station at Anegola in Mandya District.
(5) Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/T(W&M)/MYS/REPL/33 for Replacement of 1x8MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer by 1x12.5MVA, 66/11KV Power Transformer, 66/11KV sub-station at Guddenahalli in Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District.
The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-procurement-kptcl"** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.12.2022.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007. Ph: 0821-2455018

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:02
RISE 11:08	SET 23:14
THURSDAY, DEC. 29	
RISE 06:40	SET 18:03
RISE 11:50	SET 00:00
FRIDAY, DEC. 30	
RISE 06:41	SET 18:03
RISE 12:29	SET 00:07

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	28	23
Mysuru	30	18
Bengaluru	24	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable but humid..Night will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Assembly adopts BMLTA Bill that seeks to ensure seamless urban mobility

According to the Bill, the proposed authority would aim at regulation of development, operation, maintenance, monitoring and supervision of urban mobility holistically

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The National Urban Transport Policy lays down a framework for integration of various functions of institutions and departments to enable holistic transport planning. FILE PHOTO

The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday adopted the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill, 2022, that seeks to bring about better integration and management of city's urban mobility. Among other things, it envisages constitution of Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority.

According to the Bill that was piloted by Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy on behalf of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, the proposed authority would aim at regulation of development, operation, maintenance, monitoring and supervision of urban mobility holistically.

It points out that presently the process of planning and implementation of major transport schemes aimed at streamlining and improving urban mobility were getting affected due to multiplicity of institutions and departments that are looking into urban mobility in Bengaluru. Multiple agencies like Bengaluru Development Authority, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited and Transport Department are looking into urban mobility in Bengaluru, it noted.

However, the National Urban Transport Policy lays down a framework for integration of various functions of institutions and departments to enable holistic transport planning, and the Bill envisages achieving the same in Bengaluru.

As per the Bill, the proposed authority would be led by the Chief Minister while Ministers for Bengaluru City Development and Transport will be its vice-chairmen. Apart from heads of public utilities concerned, the authority would also include experts in the field and academicians.

The authority is supposed to promote seamless mobility through sustainable urban transport and integration of land use and transport planning.

The proposed authority would also evolve and implement parking policy, non-motorised transport policy, transport-oriented development policy, multimodal integration policy and freight transport policy among others.

Finally, the authority is expected to prepare a comprehensive mobility plan for the city within two years of its formation to ensure integrated, comprehensive and planned development of urban mobility.

High-level meeting called to address land acquisition issues for PRR and STRR

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A file photo of land notified at Bylakere for the proposed Peripheral Ring Road project.

Stressing the need to have both the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) and the Satellite Town Ring Road (STRR) to manage Bengaluru's traffic, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai expressed concern that the earlier three attempts to call tenders for constructing the Peripheral Ring Road had failed due to the problems associated with land acquisition.

A high-level meeting has been convened to resolve the issues related to land acquisition, he said, while replying to a debate on the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority Bill in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

Speaking on Bengaluru's traffic situation, Mr. Bommai said the government was studying the best practices in cities like London, New York, and Shanghai, to resolve the traffic woes of Bengaluru.

"It takes a long time to reach airports by road in all these cities, though they have fast trains," he said. "We are studying how they are resolving their traffic problems." "There is a dire need to have a scientific study on Bengaluru traffic. We have spoken to experts at the Indian Institute of Science in this regard and are also examining several old reports," he said.

He pointed out that an ADGP-level officer had been appointed as Special Commissioner for handling Bengaluru's traffic.

He maintained that there was a lot of improvement in traffic management after the new ADGP was posted. "This is evident with the average time for movement of traffic near Hebbal flyover reducing from the earlier 20 minutes to 7-8 minutes now," he said. The new ADGP has made all the police staff to be present on the road during peak hours and stopped the manual system of physically stopping vehicles and levying fine for traffic violations, as this would add to traffic snarls, he said.

"We are now dependent mainly on cameras to identify violators while the fine is collected through digital system. But we are getting more penalty amount now than physical inspection era," he said.

He said the government was trying to put the 7,000 CCTV cameras, installed under the Nirbhaya scheme in the city, to a multi-purpose use by trying to utilise them for traffic management.

"We have both swirl and AI cameras under the Nirbhaya scheme. The AI cameras are helping in focusing on areas where there is thick traffic."

Presently, Bengaluru has a human population of 1.25 crore and a vehicle population on the same scale. However, the vehicle population is set to exceed the human population within five years, as 5,000 new vehicles are entering the roads every day, he said.

Lokayukta raids 37 locations of manufacturer of tobacco products

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta on Tuesday raided various manufacturers for illegally transporting tobacco products, like pan masala, gutka and other forms of chewable tobacco products, into the State by colluding with Commercial Tax Department officials in 37 locations, with the help of 150 police officials.

In a statement, the Lokayukta said: "On the basis of news reports and also based on a preliminary enquiry report from the police wing of the Lokayukta, a *suo motu* proceeding has been initiated by Lokayukta Justice B.S. Patil in connection with certain manufacturers and transporters illegally transporting tobacco products like pan masala, gutka and other forms of chewable tobacco products into our State by colluding with Commercial Tax Department Officials."

"It is also brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Lokayukta that these products attract GST at the rate of 28% and illegal transportation of such products, without tax bills and invoices, results in a huge loss to the State exchequer. However the officers concerned have failed to take action against the manufacturers and transporters," the statement added.

The searches have also revealed that many manufacturers have not kept their account books regarding purchases of raw materials, expenses, sales of finished products etc., which was a blatant violation of GST laws, according to the Lokayukta.

"Godowns were also searched in 20 places and it was observed that no purchase invoices, sales, or stocks register were maintained. It was seen that the traders were having a free hand in selling these goods without paying any GST. Some of them did not even have GST numbers and the stocks did not match the books of accounts," the statement stated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the public that my client Smt. H. Mamatha has lost the original Sale Deed dated 02.08.2001 Regd. No. 5239/2001-02 and original MDTD dated 06.02.2007, Regd. No. KEN-1-37230-2006-07 and Original Partition Deed dated 30.06.2010, Regd. No. KEN-1-01308-2010-11 and Original Discharge Deed date 06.05.2019, Regd. No. KEN-1-00970-2019-20 at between 01.47 p.m. on 15.12.2022 on while Transit from Kengeri to Nayandahalli. The said documents were related to Site bearing No.191/1-D, Present BBMP Khatha No. 663/593/191/1D, Khatha No.593, Kengeri CMC Khatha No.468/1D, Assessment No. 468/2, Old Khaneshumari No. 336, New No. 338, Situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West Northern Side 32 feet Southern side 38 feet and North to South 33 feet totally 1155 Sq feet. If any person/s who finds it, is requested to return the same to us at below mention address:

Subrahmanya Hegde
Advocate,
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES,
#76-77, Krishna Krupa Building, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-20. Mob: 9060069259

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring it to the notice of General public, that my Clients **Sri. P. Kamal and Sri. P. Manjunathan,** both sons of Late. Perumal, are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from **Smt. RAJESHWARI, RAJUPALEPU**, W/o. Venkataramana Rajupalepu, D/o Pingali Rajan, presently Residing at 255-Vita Ave, Mountain House, California-95391, U.S.A. and she represented by her SPA Holder / father **Sri. Pingali Rajan.** If any person/s having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, ***within 7 days*** from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my clients will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property **BDA vacant site bearing No. 2182,** PID No. 4312030487, situated at **Sir M Visveswaraya Layout, 3rd Block, Bengaluru, Measuring East to West: 15.00 meters and North to South: 24.00 meters, in all 360.00 square meters** and the same is bounded on the :

East by : Site No. 2181
West by : Site No. 2183
North by : Road and
South by : Site Nos. 2201 and **2202**

Sd/-

S. NAGARAJAN *B.A., LL.B.,* **Advocate,**
No.2, 10th 'C' Main Road, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.
Mobile No.: 9448045982.
Place: Bangalore Date: 27.12.2022

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/F-98(11)/22-23/9850-51 Date: 27.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E–procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry no: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-3/22-23/EPR-37 Dt: 26.12.2022** for the work of **"for Design, Manufacture, Testing and supply and commissioning of 110V, 100AH, 30A Battery charger for the use at various sub-stations coming under BMAZ North Circle".**

The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on or after **30.12.2022** to https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyper Link 'e procurement–KPTCL' or to https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Tr (M), BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-9. Phone: 22386686-85.

TAMIL NADU STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
E-Mail: tnsacs@gmail.com - Phone No.044-28190467 / 28190891.

Corrigendum to the EOI dated 16th December 2022

The following corrigendum is issued as an amendment to the EOI dated **16th December 2022.** " In respect of task No. 2 mentioned in the EOI dated 16th December 2022" (i.e) conduct of Internal Audit of DAPCUs, NGOs, Medical College Hospitals, & Peripheral Units implementing Programmes of TANSACS", it is decided to include the Firms of Cost and Works Accountants also for submission of offers. Accordingly, reputed Cost and Works Accountants meeting the qualification criteria mentioned in TANSACS web site: **www.tnsacs.in** shall submit their offers on or before **18.01.2023,** extending the date of submission of offer from **30th December 2022.** The extended date shall also apply to task 1 mentioned in the EOI dated 16th December 2022.

DIPR/ 1311 /DISPLAY/2022

PROJECT DIRECTOR
MEMBER SECRETARY

" சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம் "

BANGALORE-MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/47/2022-23/1489 Date: 26-12-2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Chakradhara Infracon LLP represented by its Partner **Sri Purushotham. V,** has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose under Section 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining to land in Sy.No. 78/1 Extent 02Acre-20½ Guntas and Sy.No. 78/3 Extent 0Acre-21½ Guntas totally measuring 03 Acre - 02 Guntas of Maluru Village, Maluru Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to middle income group and Economically weaker section .
2) At the time of carving and designing the Layout, there will be job opportunities to labours.
3) If the land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4) If the planned development takes place, good road, Civic amenity sites and parks etc., will be available for General Public.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public. Any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bangalore** in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 16 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 16 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/3734/Adverto/2022-23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ನಂ–2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ–576229 ಕುಂದಾಪುರ (ತಾ), ಉಡುಪಿ (ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
ಕ.ಟಿಂ.ಪ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಕನೀನಿ/ವಾಜಯೋವಿ–2/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/26/2022–23/1522 ದಿ: 22/12/2022

ಪ್ರೀ–ಕ್ವಾಲೀಫಿಕೇಶನ್ ಕಂ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಂ)

IMPLIMENTATION OF LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME UNDER SIDDAPURA LIFT IRRIGATION SCHEME FOR PROVIDING IRRIGATION FACILITY TO 1200 HECTARES OF COMMAND AREA TO VILLAGES NEAR SIDDAPURA IN KUNDAPURA TALUKU UDUPI DISTRICT" ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು KPWD Class I/CPWD Class I (AAA) Contractor & Above ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ (LUMP SUM TURN KEY) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ:

(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. (2) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.154.09ಕೋಟಿ (3) ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1.83ಕೋಟಿ (4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ **ದಿ: 26/12/2022** (5) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ/ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ (queries if any) ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿ: 02/01/2023 ರ ಸಮಯ 5.00** ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿ, ನಂ.2 ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ/ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ/ಇ–ಮೈಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. (6) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಪೂರ್ವಾಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ **ದಿ: 02/01/2023 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವುದು. (7) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11/01/2023 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ.** (8) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿ: 12/01/2023 ರ ಸಮಯ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.30** ಘಂಟೆ (9) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in, www.knnlindia.com** ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿ, ನಂ–2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. (10) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿ., ನಂ.2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಿಆ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/722/22–23 ದಿ: 27.12.2022

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University Under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India) Established by an Act of Parliament in 2008

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/13/30/2/2020-Estt.-(R) Date: 28.12.2022

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR CONTRACT ENGAGEMENT

Indian Maritime University –Headquarters invites suitable candidates for walk-in-interview for the following posts on contract basis:

1. Junior Engineer (Electrical) – (01 Position)
2. Junior Engineer (Civil) – (01 Position)

Eligibility	**Visit website (www.imu.edu.in)**
Date of walk in interview	13.01.2023 Kindly refer to important instructions for timing, venue, available at IMU website
Last date for submitting application	11.01.2023
Consolidated Emoluments	1. For Junior Engineer (Electrical): Rs. 49,000/- per month (Maximum) 2. For Junior Engineer (Civil): Rs.49,000/- per month (Maximum)
Contract period	Initially for a period of six months, which may be extended for further period based on performance and requirement.

Eligibility criteria for the post and other details can be obtained from **www.imu.edu.in**.
No TA/DA will be paid to the candidates to attend Walk-in-interview.

-Sd-
REGISTRAR

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, Jalabhavan, # P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09
Ph No: 0821- 2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

E-Procurement Tender Notification

Tender is invited for the work of Providing Water Supply Distribution System to Pandavapura Town including O & M for a period of 5 years under AMRUT 2.0 through Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Mode, for the Indent No: KUWSDB/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT 3262, **A.P.T: Rs.1733.14 Lakhs. Further details may be obtained through e-procurement portal (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/- Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, Mysuru.

DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/813/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to develop the Schedule Property into a multistoried residential apartment building by entering into a Development Agreement with its Owners **(i) SMT.GEETHA SATHYAN** wife of Sri.N.Sathyan; **(ii) SRI.J.N.KRISHNA** son of Sri.J.Narayana Setty and **(iii) SRI.K.C.KRISHNA** son of late Sri.K.Chandraiah Setty, residing at No.3, 1st Floor, 3rd Main, Papu Cottage, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004. The Owners represent that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and have good marketable right, title and interest therein.

Apart from the above owners, if any person has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same shall be filed with the undersigned with supporting documents, within **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of this Notice. Objections and or the claims received after expiry of the stipulated time will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed with the transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant undeveloped residential land measuring (i) **12 ½ Guntas in Sy.No.92/5;** (ii) **9¼ Guntas in Sy.No.92/6** and (iii) **2¼ Guntas in Sy.No.92/7,** situated at **Kodathi Village,** Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District and bounded as follows :

East by : Land in Sy.No.92/8
West by : Land in Sy.No.187
North by : Cart Road and thereafter layout formed in the remaining land in Sy.Nos.92/5, 92/6 & 92/7
South by : Road

Sd/- **BAYYA REDDY. M**
For **ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP,** Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 4th Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road, BSK 2nd Stage, Opp :Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients intend to purchase the schedule property from Smt.Laxmidevamma, W/o T.Thimme Gowda, at No.1140, Naveen Nilaya, 7th Cross, Maheshwarinagar, T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru-560 021.

Any body having any claim or interest on the schedule property shall notify their claim with the undersigned on or before **10 days** from the date of publication of this Notice.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of converted site [vide converted by Deputy Commissioner vide No.BDA/AALN/SR [N] 66-95-96 dated 27-11-1995 bearing site No.25 & 26 formed in Sy.No.30, Dasarahalli CMC Katha No.1138, situated at Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West : 80 feet and North to South : 60 feet in all 4800 Sq.ft. and bounded on.

East by : Site No.27
West by : Site No.24
North by : 30 feet Road
South by : Private proprty.

Bengaluru.
Date : 28.12.2022

(K.T.DAKAPPA) Advocate,
At No.64/1, SM Plaza, I Floor, DVG Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru- 560 004.
Phone: 4090 1371

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client contracted to purchase the schedule property from **B.V.NARASIMHAIAH & N.B.SOUBHAGYA,** No.30, 2nd Main road, New Extension, S.R.S.Road, Peenya, Bengaluru – 560 055. Any body having any claim or interest on the schedule property shall notify their claim with the undersigned on or before **10 days** from the date of publication of this Notice.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the site No.24 measuring East to West : 40 feet and North to South : 60 feet in all 2400 Sq.ft. Katha No.1138 of Dasarahalli CMC formed in the property bearing No.30, [Portion of Balel Mar Estate] converted as per Conversion Order BDS/ALN/SR[N] 66-95-96 dated 27-11-1995 of Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthapur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on :

East by : Site No.25,
West by : Site No.23,
North by : 30 feet Road,
South by : Private proprty.

Bengaluru.
Date : 28.12.2022

(K.T.DAKAPPA) Advocate,
At No.64/1, SM Plaza, I Floor, DVG Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru- 560 004.
Phone: 4090 1371

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INBRIEF

Directorate of Sugarcane Development to be shifted

Minister for Sugar, Handloom and Textiles Shankar B. Patil Munenakoppa on Tuesday informed the Legislative Council that the Directorate of Sugarcane Development and Sugar will be shifted to Belagavi soon after the conclusion of the ongoing legislature session.

Responding to a question from Sharavana T.A., Mr. Munenakoppa said this was part of the State government's decision to shift offices of several departments and corporations to North Karnataka to ensure overall development of the region. A Government Order in this regard had already been issued in September 2021 and till the office was completly shifted to Suvarna Soudha, a temporary office was functioning out of the S. Nijalingappa Sugar Institute in Belagavi.

This move, he added, will help the farmers of northern Karnataka region as well as the sugar mills situated in the region. Out of the 73 sugar factories in the State, as many as 60 were operating in northern Karnataka, he added.

A smaller office of the Directorate of Sugarcane Development and Sugar will also be retained in Bengaluru.

Advocates' protest stalls traffic on highway for two hours

Members of various Bar Associations in Bengaluru and other districts took out a protest rally in front of the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Tuesday, demanding the passage of an advocates protection legislation and other benefits, resulting in a two-hour-long traffic jam on the Bengaluru-Pune Highway.

They gathered at the protest venue near the Suvarna Soudha and walked towards the winter session venue.

They demanded that J.C. Madhu Swamy, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, come to meet them at the protest venue. When he did not turn up for some time, they tried to storm into the Suvarna Soudha by shouting slogans against the government. Some tried to force their way into the front gate, while others had a heated debate with the Police Commissioner M.B. Boralingaiah who tried to stop them.

This is the second time commuters on the national highway suffered traffic jams this week. The Panchamasali reservation agitation committee had stopped the movement of vehicles as their rally had spilled over onto the highway on December 22.

Cooker blast case: Heated debate in Assembly on terror act and its timing

BJP accuses DKS of being 'sympathetic' to terrorists; latter says his statements are being twisted out of context. Home Minister says police had done commendable job in probing acts of terror

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra and several members of the BJP took exception to Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar's recent statement on Mangaluru blast, leading to a heated debate.

Raising the issue in the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, BJP member C.T. Ravi said that the KPCC president should withdraw his "sympathetic" statement towards terrorists and seek people's apology. He alleged that the Congress leader had raised doubts about the police investigation into the Mangaluru blast and found fault with the DG&IGP of the State for declaring it an "act of terror."

"The country has lost two Prime Ministers in terror attacks. However, a leader belonging to a prominent party has spoken lightly about terrorists. He should withdraw his statement," Mr. Ravi said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai during the Assembly session at Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Timing of blast

Responding strongly to the allegation, Mr. Shivakumar said his statement had been misconstrued. "The blast occurred at a time when the 'theft of voter data' was exposed. More than 8,700 booth-level officers were appointed unofficially. We complained to the Election Commission seeking a detailed inquiry. Senior officers were suspended. At the same time, the blast occurred. Even as the accused was under treatment, unable to speak, the DG declared he was a terrorist. Hence I said that the government was diverting the public attention from the allegation of 'theft of voter data'," he said.

Intervening, Mr. Bommai said, "People of the State know very well who is an expert in manipulating the voters' list. However, we have ordered a probe into the issue. There was no need to link that issue to the act of terror reported in Mangaluru," he said. Any terrorist act was a matter of serious concern, he said, adding that nobody should pass comments diluting the gravity of the act."

Home Minister Araga Jnanendra stated that the State police had done a commendable job in investigating acts of terror. "Nobody should pass comments ridiculing the police. If not the DG of the State, who else should give statement on the Mangaluru blast?" he asked.

Earlier, responding to Mr. Ravi's remarks that targeted a particular religion for the terrorist acts, Congress leader U.T .Khader said all criminals and terrorists were just criminals and terrorists and treated as such. "For the crimes committed by some individuals, entire religion should not be blamed. As legislators we should send the message of unity," he said. Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kaveri also appealed to the legislators to be responsible while issuing statements.

Increase in enrolment: 30% in govt. high schools, 335% in private high schools

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Enrolment in government high schools of the State may have gone up from 5,19,470 in 2008-09 to 6,80,258 in 2021-22, showing a rise of 30%. But, the number went up from 2,43,304 to 8,17,415 in private high schools during the same period, accounting for a whopping 335% rise.

These were the details were part of the analysis and recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) report on Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) pertaining to the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Expressing disappointment over the absence of efforts to improve the quality of Government High Schools, the PAC headed by former Minister and Congress MLA Krishna Byre Gowda pointed out that teachers played a very important role in improving the quality of Government schools.

Hence, a mid-career assessment of teachers should be compulsorily implemented, the PAC has recommended.

While the number of Government schools during the period went up from 4,010 in 2008-09 to 4,738 in 2021-22, the number of private unaided schools went up from 1,957 in 2008-09 to 8,398 in 2021-22.

15.8 lakh enrolled for Yashaswini scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Till December 20, a total of 15.8 lakh people had enrolled for the Yashaswini health scheme, scheduled for relaunch in the State on January 1, 2023.

Responding to a question from C.N. Manje Gowda in the Legislative Council on Tuesday, Cooperation Minister S.T. Somashekar said the enrollment for the scheme, which started on November 1, 2022, is scheduled to end on December 31, 2022.

The State government has a target for enrollment of 30 lakh people during the year and a total of 15.8 lakh people had enrolled by December 20, 2022.

When asked by Mr. Manje Gowda to extend the last date for enrollment to reach the target, Mr. Somashekar said the government will launch the scheme from January 1. If the target of 30 lakh enrollment is not reached by December 31, the government will have to discuss with a committee constituted to overlook the scheme's implementation to decide if the last date should be extended or not.

To another question, Mr. Somashekar clarified that eligibility for the scheme is not restricted to persons having membership of Agriculture Credit Co-operative Bank. Even people with Aadhar card address in cities, but having land in the village and membership in a cooperative bank in towns or cities are eligible, he said.

Defeated candidate getting development funds kicks up row

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Defeated BJP MLA candidate from Sringeri D.N. Jeevaraj getting funds for development of the constituency from the government kicked up a row in the Assembly with sitting MLA from Sringeri and Congress leader Raje Gowda staging a dharna in the House along with another Congress MLA demanding that he should be allowed to move a privilege motion against Mr. Jeevaraj.

Raising the issue in the Assembly, the Sringeri MLA alleged that Mr. Jeevaraj getting funds for development of his constituency through an order where the government had referred to his application seeking funds had undermined his position as MLA.

He demanded that the government immediately withdraw the funds allotted to the constituency through the defeated candidate.

However, Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri and Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy maintained that his complaint and the documents submitted by him did not show any breach of privileges.

Angered by this, Mr. Raje Gowda entered the well of the House and commenced a dharna.

ST tag: Govt. assures Kadugolla community of trying to convince Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Law Minister J.C. Madhuswamy on Tuesday assured the Assembly that the Karnataka government would try to convince the Centre by February to include Kadugolla community in the ST list.

Replying to the issue raised by Bharatiya Janata Party member Poornima during zero hour in the Assembly, he said the State government was committed to making serious efforts to include the Kadugolla community in the ST list as they had tribal characteristics.

He said the Chief Minister would meet Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda either in the first or second week of January to convince him about the need to provide ST tag to the community.

Cong. seeks CBI probe into irregularities in Guru Raghavendra Cooperative Bank

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Congress staged a dharna in the Legislative Council on Tuesday demanding a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in Guru Raghavendra Cooperative Bank in Bengaluru.

Speaking on the issue under Rule 330 in the Legislative Council, Congress member U.B. Venkatesh said a large number of people had deposited their lifetime earnings and have not been able to secure any relief since the ₹1,294 crore fraud in the bank came into the open about three years ago.

Minister for Cooperation S.T. Somashekar said an FIR had already been registered in the case and an investigation is also underway by both Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Enforcement Directorate (ED). He expressed hope that the case will soon reach its logical end and the depositors will get their money back.

But, Congress members argued that the Minister's reply was not satisfactory and entered the well of the House demanding a CBI probe.

Soon, a bitter exchange of words ensued between Congress and BJP members when the former accused the government of coming under pressure from BJP leadership to protect the accused. Mr. Somashekar also reacted angrily when the Congress members accused the officials of the Cooperation Department of being hand in glove with the accused.

The Congress withdrew dharna after Mr. Somashekar said he was not against a CBI probe. But he pointed out that relief for the depositors will be further delayed if a CBI probe is ordered at this juncture when CID probe is almost complete. He assured to invite the Congress leaders to a meeting with officials of his department.

Chief Minister condemns Maharashtra's resolution

The Legislative Council too unanimously passed a resolution on Karnataka's border row with Maharashtra, in Belagavi on Tuesday. BADIGER P.K.

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday condemned the resolution adopted by the Maharashtra Assembly to legally pursue the inclusion of 865 Marathi-speaking villages in Karnataka into its fold.

"We condemn the resolution of Maharashtra as it is detrimental to the interests of the country's federal structure itself and shows lack of responsibility. Maharashtra politicians have the habit of issuing such statements for their political gains," the Chief Minister told mediapersons in Belagavi.

The Chief Minister argued that there was no meaning to Maharashtra's resolution as the matter was before the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the Legislative Council too on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution on Karnataka's border row with Maharashtra with the State committing itself to the Reorganisation of the States Act, 1956, on the lines of what was passed in the Assembly.

During a discussion on the matter, Leader of the Opposition in the Council B.K. Hariprasad responded to the demand for Central rule on Belagavi and other parts of Karnataka by seeking Union Territory status for Mumbai.

He said that Mumbai was a very cosmopolitan metro with a large number of its population hailing from different parts of the country, speaking a number of different languages. His demand was supported by even Congress MLC Nagaraju Yadav as well as Mr. Madhuswamy.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH
LADAKH AUTONOMOUS HILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL KARGIL
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATION LADAKH

Bid Number: GEM/2022/B/2904564
BID DOCUMENT
Dated: 27/12/2022

Bid Details

Bid End Date/Time	16-01-2023 18:00:00
Bid Opening Date/Time	16-01-2023 18:30:00
Bid Offer Validity (From End Date)	30 Days
Office Name	Joint Director Office Kargil
Item Category	Custom Bid for Services Engagement of Public Relation Agency
Contract Period	1 Year(s)
Years of Past Experience Required for same/similar service	Yes
MSE Exemption for Years of Experience and Turnover	No
Startup Exemption for Years of Experience and Turnover	No
Document required from seller	Experience Criteria,Bidder Turnover, Certificate (Requested in ATC),Additional Doc 1 (Requested in ATC),Additional Doc 2 (Requested in ATC) *In case any bidder is seeking exemption from Experience / Turnover Criteria the supporting documents to prove his eligibility for exemption must be uploaded for evaluation by the buyer
Bid to RA enabled	No
Type of Bid	Two Packet Bid
Time allowed for Technical Clarifications during technical evaluation	5 Days
Estimated Bid Value	6000000
Evaluation Method	Total value wise evaluation
Financial Document Indicating Price Breakup Required	Yes

(a). EMD EXEMPTION: The bidder seeking EMD exemption, must submit the valid supporting document for the relevant category as per geM gIC with the bid. Under MSE category, only manufacturers for goods and service Providers for Services are eligible for exemption from MD. Traders are excluded from the purview of this Policy.

(b). EMD & Performance security should be in favour of Beneficiary, wherever it is applicable.

Beneficiary:
Joint Director
Joint Director Information Ladakh HQ Office Kargil. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(Imteeaz Kacho)

Splitting
Bid splitting not applied.
1. Years of Past Experience required: The bidder must have experience for number of years as indicated above in Dld data sheet rending monch or March prior to the bid opening or providing similar type of services to any Central State Govt Organization PS Public Listed Company. Copies of relevant contracts / orders to be uploaded along with bid in support of having provided services during each of the Financial year.
2. Estimated Bid value indicated above is being declared solely for the purpose of guidance on EMD amount and for determining the Eligibility Criteria related to Turn Over, Past Performance and Project / Post Experience etc.
This has no relevance or bearing on the price to be quoted by the bidders and is also not going to have any impact on old participation. Also this is not going to be used as a criteria in determining reasonableness quoted prices which would be determined by the buyer based on its own assessment of reasonableness and based on competitive prices received in Bid / RA process.
Past Experience of Similar Services: The Bidder must have successfully executed / completed at least one single order of 80 % of the Estimated
Bid value or 2 orders each of 50 % of the Estimated Bid Value or 3 orders
each of 40 % of the Estimated Bid Value for similar service(s) in last three years to any Central / state Govt Organizat ion / PSU / Public Listed Company. Copies of contracts / work orders and documentary evidence of successful execution / completion in support of Past experience of similar Services along wit and contact details of clients shall be uploaded with the bid for veritication by the Buyer.

EMD Detail

Advisory Bank	State Bank of India
EMD Amount	120000

ePBG Detail

Advisory Bank	State Bank of India
ePBG Percentage(%)	3.00
Duration of ePBG required (Months)	15

This Bid is based on Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS) • The technical qualification parameters are

Parameter Name	Max Marks	Cutoff Marks	Qualification Methodology Document
Engagement of PR Agency	100	45	View File

Total Minimum Qualifying Marks for Technical Score: 45
QCBS Weightage(Technical: Financial):30:70
Interview Venue:Joint director Information Ladakh Office
Presentation Venue:joint director Information Ladakh Office
Custom Bid For Services - Engagement Of Public Relation Agency (1)

Technical Specification

Core

Description /Nomenclature of Service Proposed for procurement using custom bid runctionality	Engagement of Public Relation Agency
Regulatory/ Statutory Compliance of Service	Yes
Compliance of Service to SOW, STC, SLA etc	Yes
Addons(s)	

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
Office of the Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bangalore
Ph No: 080-29776466/67 Email: bannerghattazoo@gmail.com

No.A3/BBP/Tender/Civil Works/CR-11/2022-23 Date: 19.12.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bangalore herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited e-Tender from the eligible PWD contractors for carryout civil development works at Bannerghatta Biological Park.

Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Tenders may be submitted along with the prescribed EMD and tender fees electronically in e-proc **upto 16:00 hrs** on or before **10-01-2023.** Technical Bid will be opened on **13.01.2023** after **11:30 AM** and Financial bid will be opened on **16.01.2023** after **11:30 AM.**

Sd/-
Executive Director

DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/3731/2022-23

INBRIEF

Fair price shop dealer shines at Athletics Championship

Koorapati Dhananjaya, a 68-year-old man 'accidental athlete' from Beri Street, Tirupati, has shot to fame for his athletic prowess. Mr. Dhananjaya, a fair price shop dealer by profession, bagged four gold medals and one silver medal at the Andhra Pradesh State Masters Athletics Championship 2022 conducted at Nellore recently.

He finished first place in 400 m, 200 m, 100 m and 100 m-hurdle races and events and came second in the long jump event

It was only last month that he bagged three gold medals in the 65-69 age group at a similar State event held in Visakhapatnam, crossing the finish line in 14.00 seconds in the 100 m and 200 m in 35.41 seconds. He had covered 3.20 metres in the long jump event.

Mullaperiyar dam: T.N. issues third and final flood warning

Tamil Nadu issued the third and final flood warning as the water level in the Mullaperiyar dam reached 142 ft on Tuesday at 10 a.m. The maximum storage level as per the Supreme Court order is 142 ft. After the water level reached the maximum allowed storage, Tamil Nadu increased the tunnel discharge. The tunnel discharge was 1,867 cusecs and the average inflow 1,761 cusecs at 6 p.m. Sources said Tamil Nadu increased the discharge to avoid a sudden opening of spillway shutters when the water level touched 142 ft.

Guntur woman drowns in U.S. lake; 2 others feared drowned

A woman from Guntur district, Haritha, wife of a techie, drowned in a lake in Arizona in the U.S. on Tuesday while her husband and his friend from Visakhapatnam are also feared drowned in the water body. The incident occurred when the three went to the lake to celebrate Christmas. They reportedly stepped on the frozen water of the lake and were taking photographs when the ice caved in drawing the three into the waters.

Distortion of history is a danger facing the country today: Stalin

Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates 81st session of the Indian History Congress; says the study of history should be based on scientific methods

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Making a point: Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin speaking at the 81st session of the Indian History Congress on Tuesday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The danger surrounding the country today is the distortion of history, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Tuesday while inaugurating the 81st session of the Indian History Congress at the Madras Christian College.

"The study of history should be based on scientific methods. Some people are attempting to construe illusions as history, which one should not believe. It should not be accepted. The intellectuals would not accept it."

"Today, the danger surrounding the country is the distortion of history. The ideals of the Indian Constitution should be protected in education, language, culture, power structures, economy, administration, among others," he said.

Quoting from the 1994 judgment of a nine-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court that underscored that secularism is the basic fabric of the Indian Constitution, he said, "We should all strive to create a secular society."

Higher Education Minister K. Ponmudy said, "Once, when the history of India was written, the history of South India and that of Tamil Nadu were sidelined, hidden." If the land of India was studied properly, its history would not begin from Indus [Valley] Civilisation and the Ganga but from the shores of the Cauvery, he said. "Now, there are situations wherein history is being distorted," he said.

Quoting a historian, who according to him had said the "British rule in India is a blessing in disguise", Mr. Ponmudy said, "There is nothing wrong in taking part in the struggle against the foreigners for Independence. But when we read the actual history, if not for the British, there would not have been education development in India or Tamil Nadu; the downtrodden would not have come up in life. Christian institutions like this [the Madras Christian College] would not have come up. The [Indian History] Congress should instil in everyone the objectivity to look into all histories and maintain neutrality while writing history."

Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu said it was only apt that the session was being held in Tamil Nadu, especially at the Madras Christian College, which is a few kilometers from Pallavaram where geologist and archaeologist Robert Bruce Foote discovered the Palaeolithic hand-axes.

He listed the archaeological excavations in Tamil Nadu, and said the State had the highest number of inscriptions recorded in the country.

Professor Kesavan Veluthat took over as the general president of the 81st session of the Indian History Congress. After a gap of 26 years, an educational institution in the State is hosting the annual session of the Indian History Congress. The University of Madras hosted a session in 1996.

Will not join Reddy's party: Sriramulu

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

B. Sriramulu, Minister for Transport and Tribal Welfare, has ruled out the possibility of joining Kalyan Rajya Pragati Paksha, the party recently floated by his one-time close associate and former Minister Gali Janardhan Reddy.

"I will not join Mr. Reddy's new party. I am a loyal BJP worker and will stay so. I will campaign against Mr. Reddy in Gangavati if the BJP leaders ask me to," declared Mr. Sriramulu in Belagavi on Tuesday. "The BJP is a national party and I am a proud member. BJP has made me a leader and given me power and status. My relationship with the BJP is like that of a mother and her son. I will not leave my mother," he said.

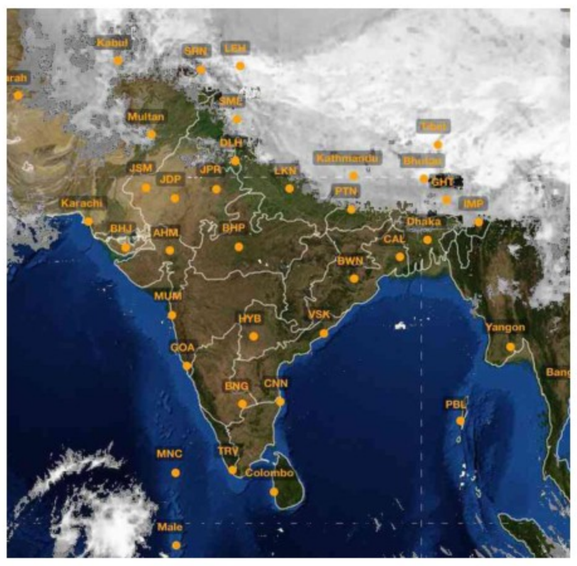
He described Mr. Reddy as a "friend", but sought to distinguish between friendship and politics. "Why should I follow Mr. Reddy into his new party? Friendship and political ideologies are two different things. For me being a BJP member is of utmost importance. However, I will wish Mr. Reddy the best and pray for his welfare," he said.

He said some Congress leaders were mocking him by asking whether he considered friendship more important than the party affiliation.

"Congress leaders are only trying to stoke fire and create differences in the BJP. They will not succeed. We are all unitedly working to make Karnataka Congress-free," Mr. Sriramulu said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over north Rajasthan. Cold day conditions likely in isolated pockets over west Uttar Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5	24.6	17.2	Kozhikode	—	34.2	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	27.6	12.9	Kurnool	0.2	33.0	22.3
Aizawl	5	—	11.7	Lucknow	—	17.1	6.6
Allahabad	—	22.3	9.0	Madurai	18	31.6	23.2
Bengaluru	1.3	23.6	19.8	Mangaluru	—	35.4	24.0
Bhopal	—	23.5	12.2	Mumbai	—	31.5	17.0
Bhubaneswar	—	33.2	19.8	Mysuru	2	30.7	18.4
Chandigarh	—	15.8	6.9	New Delhi	—	17.2	5.6
Chennai	—	30.3	24.4	Patna	—	23.0	13.8
Coimbatore	3	28.0	22.0	Port Blair	—	30.0	25.3
Dehradun	—	24.4	7.0	Puducherry	1.6	30.2	23.4
Gangtok	—	12.9	6.5	Pune	—	32.7	16.5
Goa	—	34.0	22.7	Raipur	—	31.4	26.8
Guwahati	—	22.5	14.8	Ranchi	—	27.2	14.6
Hubballi	—	31.0	20.0	Shillong	7	16.4	7.7
Hyderabad	—	32.6	21.0	Shimla	—	14.7	4.5
Imphal	7	16.8	6.1	Srinagar	—	10.2	-4.8
Jaipur	—	23.8	6.8	Thiruvananthapuram	19	31.5	23.7
Kochi	—	32.0	25.6	Tiruchi	0.4	29.3	24.0
Kohima	15	17.8	5.2	Vijayawada	—	31.6	24.0
Kolkata	—	28.9	20.0	Visakhapatnam	—	31.0	23.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.22	138	.60	...116	.....—	
Bengaluru	.15	..20	.37	43	51	
Chennai	.22	..35	.35	59	54	
Delhi	.13	..95	104	...372	...302	
Hyderabad	...4	..38	.32	93	...116	
Kolkata	.13	..28	.30	...134	...103	
Lucknow	.12	..45	.90	...291	...199	
Mumbai	.34	176	.79	...310	...286	
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	.12	..42	.30	79	...125	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 430 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Hassan, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Graves, tombstones in Muslim cemetery damaged by unidentified persons

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

At least 100 graves and tombstones in a Muslim graveyard were damaged by a group of unidentified persons in Kondanayakanahalli in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagara district.

In a complaint filed by Mohammad Ghouse, president of the Muslim Graveyard (Sunni) Additional Property of Masjid-e-Firdous, at rural police station, stated that members of Muslim community had been burying the dead on the said land since 1974. In 1980, the State government purchased the land from T. Appanna and further in 2007, the cemetery land was registered to the Muslim Graveyard (Sunni) Additional Property of Masjid-e-Firdous, which comes under the Karnataka State Wakf Board. Mr. Ghouse, speaking to *The Hindu*, on the phone alleged that some miscreants entered the graveyard with a JCB machine on Sunday night (December 25) and demolished and desecrated over 100 graves. He called it an attempt to disturb peace and communal harmony. This was the first time such an incident had occurred, he added.

The graves desecrated at Kondanayakanahalli in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagar district. SRIDHAR KAVALI

The complainant and members of the community urged the district administration to take stringent action against those who demolished and desecrated the gravestones.

Be the voice of the most vulnerable, President tells IPS probationers

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Asking Indian Police Service officers to be sensitive to the plight of the voiceless, President Droupadi Murmu said that officers should ensure that an illiterate poor man living in a remote corner of the country gets sympathetic support at every local police post.

"The criminals should tremble with fear at the very thought of the police. But, at the same time, the common citizen should look at the police as a friend and saviour," she said while addressing probationers of the 74th batch of the Indian Police Service at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy here on Tuesday.

The President addressing the students and faculty members of the Keshav Memorial Educational Society in Hyderabad.

She said the quality of their leadership would determine the effectiveness and morale of the force led by them and advised them to keep in mind, and demonstrate through action, the five fundamental attributes of Integrity, Impartiality, Courage, Competence and Sensitivity.

The President said that police was the most visible organ of the government and when they command trust of the people the image of the government also enhances.

Police forces had to be partners in progress of the country and transformation of the society while ensuring sustainable development, especially inclusion. By inclusion, she said, she means the inclusion of the last person, the most deprived person and the most vulnerable person.

Earlier, Ms. Murmu attended a function organised as part of the *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* at the Keshav Memorial Educational Society in Hyderabad.

Chit fund case: HC asks A.P. govt. not to act against Margadarsi

The Hindu Bureau
GUNTUR

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has ordered Margadarsi Chit Fund Private Limited to submit a reply to the notices issued by the Registrars and follow all the rules under the Chit Fund Act, 1982. The High Court, in its interim order, directed the Registration and Stamps Department not to take 'coercive steps' against the firm.

The Registrar, in earlier notices, has asked Margadarsi Chit Fund Private Ltd. to submit certain details, and the High Court directed the firm to comply within four weeks.

The firm informed the court that the officials have been causing 'irreparable damage' to it in the name of surprise checkings.

"On receipt of reply from the firm, the Registrars shall follow the procedure mandated under the Act and consider the same objectively. Till such time, the respondent shall not take any coercive steps against the petitioner. Respondents shall also adhere to the procedure adumbrated under the Act regarding sanction, registration, receiving of documents, releasing of security strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Act," maintained the High Court.

Meanwhile, the State government said that the Registration and Stamps Department had conducted searches at 35 chit fund units across the State in October and November, as part of the regulatory functions under the Chit Funds Act,1982.

Kerala Governor Khan explores option of sending university Bill to President

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government's "pressing" political objective of removing the Governor as Chancellor of State universities seems unlikely to materialise anytime soon. On Monday, Governor Arif Mohammed Khan asked the Raj Bhavan's standing counsel to explore the option of sending the University Laws (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to negate the role of the Governor as the Chancellor of Universities, to the President.

Mr. Khan seemed to have applied the dictum that "no one should be a judge in their own cause" (*Nemo judex in causa sua*). Mr. Khan had applied the same maxim by withholding assent to the Kerala Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill. The Bill, passed by the Assembly and not signed into law by the Governor, seeks to emplace the Chief Minister as appellate authority if the Lok Ayukta, an anti-corruption watchdog, declares a "corrupt" Minister unworthy of high office. Mr. Khan reportedly saw a conflict of interest in the legislation. The Governor's refusal to give assent to the Bill remains one of the several sore points between the Raj Bhavan and the government.

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition voted against the Bill. Nevertheless, the Congress, reportedly under duress from the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), extended qualified political support to the legislation seeking to remove the Governor as Chancellor.

Arif Mohammed Khan

The UDF moved two amendments, which the Assembly rejected by vote. During the debate, the Opposition demanded that only a retired Supreme Court judge or the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court be appointed Chancellor to insulate the jurisdiction autonomy of varsities from political interference. The UDF also insisted that a panel headed by the Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition and Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court select the Chancellor.

The government partially agreed to the demand by including the Opposition leader on the selection committee. But it rejected the UDF demand to include the Chief Justice of Kerala on the selection panel and instead proposed the Speaker. The Opposition viewed it as a move to stack the selection committee in favour of the ruling front.

Pinarayi, Modi discuss steps taken to avoid COVID surge

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the latter's office on Tuesday.

The leaders discussed the emerging threat of another wave of COVID-19 infections and precautions the State and Centre have taken to contain the pandemic's resurgence. Mr. Vijayan apprised Mr. Modi of the anti-pandemic measures initiated by Kerala.

Both leaders agreed to strengthen State-Centre relations to expedite development and complete joint infrastructure development projects in time.

'Farm House Files', a flop show, says Kishan Reddy

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy said that Bharat Rashtra Samithi president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has tried to throw mud on the BJP and it has returned to the ruling party in the State with huge force and it was now the turn of the Chief Minister to come clean.

"Farm House Files story was scripted, produced and directed by Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao using three MLAs who switched loyalty from Congress. As there is no transparency in the investigation as suspected by us, the High Court directed to hand over the case registered at Moinabad police station to the Central Bureau of Investigation. Now, all the facts come to the fore and let the people of Telangana know them," said Mr. Kishan Reddy while speaking to reporters here on Tuesday.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy addressing the media in Hyderabad. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Mr. Reddy charged that the BRS had the history of poaching MLAs from other parties like the Congress and the BJP.

Staying prepared

India needs to scale up the pace of its genome sequencing

Three years after strict enforcement of its Zero-COVID strategy, China abandoned it abruptly, leading to a jump in cases each day – an estimated 250 million people were infected in 20 days in December, according to the media, overwhelming hospitals and crematoria. Based on 30 genome sequences deposited between October and December and 14 genome sequences in December alone from China, the BF.7 appears to be the dominant variant. Though this variant was found in many countries, including India, months ago, there is fear that the uncontrolled spread of the virus in China may result in newer variants with an even higher transmissibility. For instance, the BF.7 sub-lineage with three additional immune escape mutations already seen in other variants has been found in some people arriving from China; these mutations may increase transmissibility further but will not increase disease severity. With a case surge in a few more countries, India has taken the right and proactive measures to be ready for any eventuality. With over 90% of the adult population already fully vaccinated by July this year, over one-fourth of adults also boosted, and a large percentage of the population also naturally infected, the chances of India witnessing large-scale deaths as seen during the second wave last year from existing variants are slim. In fact, given that a large percentage of the population enjoys hybrid immunity from vaccination and natural infection leading to all Omicron sub-lineages causing only a mild disease, the focus in India should not be on daily new infections but only on any increase in hospitalisations, particularly ICU admissions.

It is, therefore, not surprising that the Health Ministry has urged States to only ramp up genome sequencing (and not increase testing) to track new variants as the virus evolves by accumulating mutations. The pace of genome sequencing in India has to be scaled up soon after a dramatic slowdown this year. The Government in an effort to minimise the chances of the spread of new variants has introduced 2% random post-arrival sampling of international passengers and mandatory RT-PCR tests for arrivals from China and four other countries. The Ministry has also advised States to ensure uninterrupted supply of medical oxygen and conduct a drill in health facilities to ensure operational readiness. With seven COVID-19 vaccines, including the intranasal vaccine, manufactured using different vaccine platforms approved for use, India is vaccine self-sufficient. Besides homologous boosters, a couple of vaccines have got approval as a heterologous booster dose too. On the antiviral front, a Hyderabad-based company recently received WHO's prequalification for a generic version of Pfizer's COVID-19 oral antiviral drug, Paxlovid.

Clarity and confusion

Rahul Gandhi will have to use moral clarity for road map for poll success

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, or 'unite India march', is an audacious attempt to reimagine the country's politics. Now on a nine-day break, it will resume from Delhi on January 3, towards Srinagar in Kashmir. It began in Kanyakumari on September 7, and has covered over 2,800 kilometres. Against the backdrop of polarising sectarian rhetoric that has become the easiest route to political power, his message of harmony is as inspiring as it is innocently idealistic. Through his speeches and interactions, he has tried to frame a new charter for political action that is dissociated from immediate electoral calculations. It is in some ways a compromise in its attempt to find the middle ground between a status quo politics that merely mirror and reproduce existing social realities, and a radicalism that tries to transform the society through political action. By paying tributes to A.B. Vajpayee, the first Prime Minister from the BJP, Mr. Gandhi has sought to make a distinction between the current iteration of Hindutva from its own original content and intent, tenuous as that may be. Over the march, he has, without doubt, emerged as the staunchest opponent of Hindutva, but that may not add to his capacity to confront it or to establish himself as the fulcrum of politics opposed to it.

For Mr. Gandhi, social harmony is the means and ends of politics. That conception has a fundamental challenge though, because politics cannot escape contestation and combat, as Mr. Gandhi's own valiant opposition to the BJP and its Hindutva ideology bears out. It is not entirely original to think of politics as a medium of social transformation rather than the route to capturing state power. From the Mahatma to Vinoba Bhave to Jayaprakash Narayan, India has a long history of people and movements that saw politics as a moral pursuit. Political ideologies such as Hindutva and Marxism see state power not as an end in itself, but as the instrument of social transformation that they aim for. The current power-ideology complex of Hindutva has attained a level of hegemony and efficiency that it is self-perpetuating. Its unprecedented totalising grip over India is based on a political adaptation of Hinduism, a philosophy that has connected people to one another and their land over millennia. Mr. Gandhi is cognisant of the reality that confronts him and his intentions are beyond reproach. Figuring out the complex correlation between state power and social goals is more challenging. Translating moral clarity to sustainable politics is the task at hand for Mr. Gandhi.

Handling the fallout of China's wilted COVID strategy

Giridhara R. Babu

is a Professor of Epidemiology at the Public Health Foundation of India, Bengaluru

Mainland China is going through a critical phase in the health emergency, more dire than in the early days of 2020, as the country of origin for SARS-CoV2. In the absence of reliable data on the toll on human health and life, rough approximations indicate millions of people with symptomatic diseases and adverse outcomes in China. Instead of gearing up for the holiday season, the rest of the world is now grappling with uncertainty about continuing the benefits of relaxations in COVID-19 norms and measures for the prevention of further waves. It is time to reflect, review the situation, and respond to the potential waves, which will differ from country to country and regions within.

A strategy experimentation, China's policy

At the beginning of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, countries followed their own strategies as many were clueless about how to deal with the sudden emergence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Instead of a cohesive, uniform global strategy, countries experimented on their own. There were two principal approaches; the first was promoting herd immunity by allowing the virus to infect everyone, which also advocated focused protection of the people at risk. The biggest problem with this approach was that it resulted in many deaths among the elderly and the others who were vulnerable.

The second was to follow the other extreme, known as the Zero-COVID strategy of not allowing even a single case of COVID-19 by imposing strict lockdowns, closing borders, and imposing travel bans. As the vaccination rates (with effective vaccines) increased significantly, countries that followed the strategy abandoned it mid-course as it was untenable. These countries scaled up vaccine production, leveraged vaccination delivery, and urged the public to adhere to COVID-appropriate behaviour.

China followed the unrealistic and prolonged Zero-COVID strategy as a lofty goal, as if the virus was destined to disappear on its own. While the virus was emerging in different forms with varying infectiousness and virulence, China stuck to the same policy. The Zero-COVID strategy rendered the Chinese population relatively more vulnerable to the virus without better vaccines and strengthened health systems. At a time when China is confronted with witnessing many cases, it has stopped testing all infected persons and modified the criteria for identifying COVID-19 deaths. Apart from underestimating cases and deaths, the real worry is missing the development of newer variants. The more the new variants circulate and find newer hosts to lodge upon, the higher the chances for mutation and evolution to newer forms. Rapid circulation in a largely susceptible population may result in newer variants, which could spread to other areas. It is important to track the genetic variations in China and study the infectiousness and virulence of people in the rest of the world.

> It is important to track the genetic variations in China and study the infectiousness and virulence of people in the rest of the world

Tackling the ongoing wave

The next concern is how the ongoing wave in China could threaten other countries.

Given the understanding that only Omicron and its sub-lineages are circulating in China, it is very unlikely that these can result in large waves of infection or fatality in India. This assertion arises from hybrid immunity, offered by both the high burden of Omicron, and greater vaccine coverage with primary doses. In the past, complacency has cost countries a greater toll on human lives apart from economic and social loss. Therefore, proactive measures taken by the Government are justified, including a higher level of commitment and review of the programme. In particular, the resulting actions should focus on expanding booster coverage, strengthening surveillance, and reorienting the health systems for cohesive pandemic preparedness.

Despite high coverage, nearly 8% of adults have missed the second dose of the vaccine, constituting a large pool for infection and complications. Also, India must ensure that 2-3 million young adults added each month to the cohort of adults are vaccinated. Those who missed the second dose should be prioritised and vaccinated through outreach activities. Further, 73% of adults are yet to receive booster doses; with 60% of the elderly remaining to be covered. Evidence suggests that heterologous booster doses increase the levels of neutralising antibodies. Among the available options for boosters, Corbevax and Covishield are the frontrunners for increasing the antibody levels, as in data from Christian Medical College Vellore, Tamil Nadu. The recent inclusion of the intranasal COVID-19 vaccine is exciting; we need data on how this can increase the antibody titers compared to other vaccines.

The possibility of a newer variant emerging out of the high-circulation ecosystem in China is a real concern. The primary requirement for understanding this will be based on the data made available by China in terms of epidemiological data, clinical features, mortality, and genomic sequencing. In the absence of reliable data required for modelling, it is nearly impossible for realistic planning for potential waves. China also revised its guidelines recently to classify only fatalities in infected persons caused by pneumonia and respiratory failure as COVID deaths. Also, the country has decided not to publish daily COVID data from December 25.

It is unfortunate that the World Health Organization or other global powers are influential enough to ensure China shares the critical data. In the absence of data, countries are resorting to intuitively contend that any likely wave cannot be more devastating than the largest waves due to the earlier variants. While hoping for the best, assessing whether the preparedness can match the burden of hospitalisation during the earlier waves might be best. Continuing enhanced efforts in genomic sequencing can provide timely information on newer variants.

Shared databases, community partnerships

Managing multiple waves of COVID-19 is an index of the future burden of zoonotic diseases and serves as a reminder to assess and strengthen underlying disease surveillance and health system components. Instead of limiting these assessments and corrections for each wave, this is the time to strengthen the bottoms-up surveillance systems in an integrated manner to detect thresholds for different pathogens affecting human and animal health. Instead of devastations associated with outbreaks, our choices for resilient structures and human resources can fortify in offering better outcomes. There are multiple disease surveillance systems in India, and with considerable duplication of efforts. This is the time to build shared databases and surveillance across different sectors and identify new solutions that address the root causes and links between risks and impacts.

Integrating and unifying the efforts to balance and optimise the health of people, animals, and the environment is called "One-health". This can prevent, predict, detect, and respond to global health threats. Since this approach involves multiple sectors and disciplines, governments should aim to mobilise these by building partnerships with communities to create long-term, sustainable solutions. Community engagement is also critical to promote risk-reducing habits and attitudes and supporting the early detection and containment of disease threats.

A retelling of the Indian migrant worker's plight

Ginu Zacharia Oommen

is Member, Kerala Public Service Commission

Rejimon Kuttappan

is the author of 'Undocumented'

This year, International Migrants Day (observed annually on December 18) must be seen in the backdrop of unprecedented volatility that began in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides this infectious disease outbreak, there were events such as the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, worsening poverty in the sub-Saharan region, and also climate change, resulting in large-scale migration.

Data on migration

According to the International Organization of Migration (IOM)'s World Migration Report 2022, there were 281 million international migrants globally in 2020, with nearly two-thirds being labour migrants. While there were 169 million labour migrants in 2019, the figure touched 164 million in 2020.

In the larger pool of migrants, South Asia's share is nearly 40%; further, the South Asia-Gulf Migratory corridor is the world's largest migrant corridor.

Long-term data on international migration show that "migration is not uniform across the world and is shaped by economic, geographic, demographic and other factors, resulting in distinct migration patterns, such as migration corridors developed over many years".

Recently, there were the cases of around 300 Indian engineers from Tamil Nadu who were trafficked to Myanmar to work for a crypto-scam and nearly 20 Indian nurses trafficked to the United Arab Emirates for fake job offers. Both groups had migrated after a desperate "post COVID-19 job hunt".

According to Kerala government data, some 1.7 million Keralites returned from abroad during the pandemic between June 2020 and June 2021; 1.5 million had suffered job losses. None of them had a proper plan to survive, and were staring at no jobs or self-employment opportunities in Kerala.

Unfortunately, despite India being the largest migrant-sending and remittance-receiving country, the welfare of Indian migrants abroad is hardly a priority for the Government and policymakers. It is a matter of serious concern that India has yet to have a tangible and comprehensive migration policy to ensure decent living and safe movement of migrants.

> It is a matter of serious concern that despite being the largest migrant sending country, India has yet to have a tangible and comprehensive policy that upholds worker rights

India manages or governs Indians migrating abroad using the Emigration Act, 1983. In the last 40 years, migration has witnessed sea changes. However, the Indian government has been silent on the issue of updating the Act.

The authorities have still to initiate discussions for the smooth passage of a robust Emigration Bill in Parliament.

In the winter session of Parliament, a document tabled shows that around nine million Indian migrants are working in the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) countries. Though some of the GCC states have passed reforms to safeguard the rights of migrants and to protect them from discrimination, the situation at the grass-roots level is a different story.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the existing exploitative nature of the *Kafala* system (a 'sponsorship system that regulates the relationship between employers and migrant workers') which has invariably resulted in the mass retrenchment of the labour force.

An Asian-led campaign

Presently, South Asian countries, including their civil society organisations, scholars and migrant activists are leading a 'justice for wage theft' campaign for the disbursement of the pending salary benefits and other related dues of labour.

The pandemic has resulted in unemployment, under-employment, a reduction in salaries, and, more importantly, in the non-payment of salaries, compensation and residual dues. It must be noted that rich employers in GCC nations who violate basic labour laws and refuse regular salaries and dues, are from different nationalities, including Indians.

The recurring problems that migrant labourers face are: irregular payment, poor working conditions, negation of labour rights, the absence of a proper grievance redress mechanisms, and access to a transparent judicial system. Irregular payment and non-payment of wages, and abuse at the workplace have been a long-term problem in the GCC countries. This has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Countries such as the Philippines which have recorded the wage theft of their migrants are taking up the issue legally.

Focus on women workers

Attention needs to be focussed on the women migrant workforce, largely limited to GCC countries and also to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries to some extent. Interestingly, Indian nurses and care-givers have been working in the most volatile countries such as Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen and Israel, and even remote Papua New Guinea.

Women workers venture to these countries using the services of recruiting agencies on account of major domestic problems. Therefore, the Government should comprehensively assess the situation of migrant women and create women-centric, rights-based policies.

Finally, the COVID-19 pandemic has rerouted global migration patterns, restructured migratory corridors, and exposed the untold vulnerabilities and miseries of international migrant labour.

The United Nations, through its non-binding resolution, "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly Migration and Regular Migration", recognises the challenges migrant labour faces across the world. In this context, the Government of India has to revisit its policies in the post-pandemic migratory scenario by engaging all stakeholders and by passing the Emigration Bill 2021.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homage to A.B. Vajpayee

It is strange that some elements have found fault with Rahul Gandhi paying homage at the memorial of the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Inside pages, "Congress, BJP trade charges over Rahul Gandhi's visit to Vajpayee memorial", December 27). What a cheap manifestation of hatred. It should not be forgotten that when compared to the current lot of politicians, A.B. Vajpayee was considered to be 'a right person but in the wrong party'. He was a statesman, scholar, and an excellent person embedded with compassion. It must also be noted that he had strong views on attempts to disrupt harmony.

Tharcius. S. Fernando,
Chennai

Mr. Gandhi seems to have sent a clear message that democracy (in India) is made up of a tapestry of parties with different ideologies and where there is no place for hatred. It has also shown that a Congress-Mukt Bharat is a distant possibility.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

It does not behove well for anybody to find fault with Mr. Gandhi visiting the memorial. However, some of the social media messaging by the Congress was in bad taste. A.B. Vajpayee was a statesman. Those who comment on him must behave in a statesman-like manner.

K.V. Seetharamaiah,
Bengaluru

Despicable act

The report on human waste having been found in a tank supplying water to Adi Dravidar families was a real shock to read (Page 1, "Faeces found floating in Adi Dravidar village tank", December 27). Such an inhuman act is unacceptable and only depicts the lowest form of behaviour. This is a fit case for punishment under the Public Health Act. It is a shame that in modern India, people who have been oppressed, in the name of caste, continue to be subject to atrocities. The Tamil Nadu government needs to act strongly.

Dr. E. Subbarayan,
Gingee, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu

Auctioning of cricketers

I am writing this as a cricket buff. Cricketers were auctioned for whopping sums for the IPL 2023 edition. Fixing a price tag on them is akin to selling sheep in a shandy. If the BCCI's coffers are overflowing, the money can be spent on noble causes. Offering crores of rupees to cricketers is sheer madness. The IPL can be staged once in four years.

K. Pradeep,
Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Focus on Africa, the heart of the Global South

Rajiv Bhatia

is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, former high commissioner to Kenya and South Africa, and author of 'India–Africa Relations: Changing Horizons'

India, through the G20 presidency, intends to be remembered as the voice of the Global South at the heart of which is Africa. Most of the 54 countries of this continent are developing or least developed countries. To truly represent the South, it is essential to grasp the mood and changes in Africa, especially in its external partnerships. This will determine the contribution India can make to advance the African agenda. In this context, the outcome of the U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit needs a critical examination.

Washington summit

The second U.S.-Africa summit was held in Washington from December 13 to 15. The leaders of 49 countries and the chair of the African Union (AU) participated from Africa. U.S. President Joe Biden, who is yet to visit the continent, played gracious host, discussing the political, security, and economic cooperation with his guests. The leaders also deliberated on the ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and future pandemics, respond to the climate crisis, promote food security and deepen diasporic ties. Mr. Biden declared that African voices, leadership and innovation are "all critical to addressing the most pressing global challenges" and realising the vision of a free, open, prosperous and secure world. The U.S. is "all in on Africa and all in with Africa," he stressed.

Several important decisions were taken. First, the U.S. announced its support for the AU to join the G20 as a permanent member. Second, the U.S. said it "fully supports" reforming the UN Security Council (UNSC) to include permanent representation for Africa. The first assurance is implementable immediately, provided the U.S. and India overcome likely resistance from the ASEAN and European Union. But the second is vague since UNSC reform is still far into the future. Third, a promise for the president and the vice president to visit Africa next year was made. This will be a refreshing change as no U.S. president has been seen in Africa since 2015.

Summits with Africa are often judged by the quantum of funds external partners are willing to offer for economic development. The U.S. announced new investments and initiatives, including $21 billion to the International Monetary Fund to provide access to necessary financing for low-and middle-income countries, and $10 million for a pilot programme to boost the security capacity of its African partners. The administration indicated that it planned to invest $55 billion in Africa over the next three years, working closely with the Congress.

China's shadows

Nevertheless, the U.S.'s attempts to raise its profile in Africa remain episodic and faulting. China, on the other hand, has emerged as the largest trading partner and the fourth largest investor in the African continent, ahead of the U.S., through its steady diplomacy and extensive economic engagement. In 2021, while U.S.-Africa trade stood at $44.9 billion, China-Africa trade exchanges stood at $254 billion. The U.S. investment stock in Sub-Saharan Africa was $30.31 billion last year, compared with China's total investment in Africa of $43.4 billion in 2020.

Here, the U.S. and other nations can take a cue from the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), established in October 2000. The FOCAC is composed of ministers and leaders of Africa and China who meet once in three years, alternately in Beijing and an African capital. The Chinese president participates in deliberations in person or digitally. China has a full-fledged inter-ministerial mechanism to ensure the timely implementation of FOCAC decisions. The last meeting, held in Dakar in 2021, expressed support for the Chinese agenda: One-China Principle, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the vision of "a community with a shared future." It also applauded the decision by the 2018 FOCAC summit in Beijing to build "a China-Africa community" that strives for "win-win cooperation." For years, the Chinese foreign minister begins his annual series of foreign visits by travelling to Africa. Whatever flaws there may be in China's economic diplomacy in Africa – and there are many, its consistent attention to Africa contains a useful lesson.

Just before the Washington summit, Don Graves, the U.S. Deputy Commerce Secretary, noted that the U.S. had fallen behind as China surged ahead. His claim that the U.S. remains the "partner of choice" should be weighed against constant feedback received from African leaders that they do not want to choose. They want the U.S., China, and all other partners to work with them because Africa's needs are huge.

Implications for India

India's equity in Africa is older and richer than that of China and the U.S., but that should not be a source of complacency. India has striven hard, in the past two decades, to strengthen its political and economic partnership with Africa at the continental, regional and bilateral levels. The Modi government created a special momentum in arranging high-level exchanges and forging cooperation initiatives during the 2015-19 period.

Since then, COVID-19, the economic downturn, the war in Ukraine and border conflict with China may have contributed to a slowdown. This should be arrested quickly. The G20 presidency is India's opportunity to ensure that the AU becomes a permanent member of this grouping and to reflect firmly Africa's Agenda 2063 for development. India and the U.S. should work closer together in Africa. Finally, the fourth India-Africa Forum Summit should be held in early 2024, lest the third summit held in 2015 becomes a distant memory.

For India to be remembered as the voice of the Global South through the G20 presidency, it needs to understand the mood and changes in Africa

Shaking off the anti-industry image

The LDF government is trying to change perceptions about the industrial sector

STATE OF PLAY

S.R. Praveen
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Perceptions are hard to change, especially when they are deeply ingrained. The general perception about Kerala's industrial sector since the late 1980s is one such. Images of militant trade unionism and red tapism have come to be associated with the sector. This is due to some incidents getting immense media attention and thanks in no small measure to the cultural products of the period, most notably popular movies like *Varavelpu* and *Mithunam*, which were in tune with the emerging neoliberal consensus of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Ever since the Pinarayi Vijayan-led LDF government took charge for a second successive term, attempts are being made to change this perception. In its first term, the government had made its intent clear by banning *nokkukooli* (gawking fees), the practice in which headload workers used to collect fees without doing the work. The first Cabinet meeting of the new government decided to bring in a Bill for a mechanism for grievance redressal and industrial-dispute mitigation, both of which have been implemented. It also constituted an expert committee to look into all the laws dealing with industries and to update or remove the outdated ones.

In mid-2021, the Kitex Group created a furore over checks by various departments at its facilities and threatened to move future investments to Telangana. As even legitimate inspections of workers' tenements and factories to ensure compliance were portrayed as part of an

anti-industrial stance, the government was on the defensive for a while. It soon implemented the Kerala Centralised Inspection System for industries, to ensure transparency and co-ordination between various departments which carry out inspections.

After rolling out incremental measures to improve the State's ease of doing business rankings, the government has now unveiled a new draft industrial policy, aimed at attracting investments, promoting employment generation, and fostering entrepreneurship. The policy, which will be finalised in 2023 after public consultations, promises to roll out major incentives to investors, including 10% investment subsidy and 100% State GST reimbursement for non-MSMEs for five years, 100% electricity duty exemption for MSMEs for five years, 50% reimbursement of new MSMEs' expenses, 100% waiver of stamp duty and registration charges for setting up manufacturing units in industrial parks and 20% reimbursement on cost of software including big data analytic tools and machinery in upgrading manufacturing.

Though many of these measures are not what one would associate with a Left government, they sit well with the practical, rather than idealistic, positions taken by the LDF. Industries Minister P. Rajeeve has often stressed on turning Kerala into a model for responsible investment. Acknowledging the issue of land scarcity, the focus has been on attracting knowledge-intensive industries. The proposed policy is primed for an Industrial Revolution 4.0, which integrates emerging technologies, including machine learning, Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things, into the production process. The government also plans to set up the first Graphene Innovation Centre in India. With the aim of achieving self-sufficiency in the production of electronic components, a semiconductor park and allied units are also in the anvil.

In April 2022, the government announced a programme to set up one lakh MSMEs within a year. The Industries Department co-ordinated with various departments to facilitate the launch of MSMEs across sectors. Technically qualified interns were appointed in all local bodies to help local entrepreneurs with the processes. In December, Mr. Rajeeve announced that the one lakh target had been achieved in just eight months.

The government has also been taking steps to revive public sector units with individual master plans prepared to make them profitable. Proclaiming an alternative policy to that of privatisation followed by the Union government, it has also taken over and revived centrally owned public sector units including Hindustan Newsprint and Electrical Machines.

Only time will tell whether these attempts at changing perceptions will bear fruit. If they do, it could go a long way in addressing the acute employment problem that has led to educated youth migrating outside in larger numbers.

What did Indians search for in 2022

Google searches were mostly related to sports, with IPL featuring on top of the list

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

According to Google Trends, the most searched topic in India in 2022 was the Indian Premier League (IPL). This was also the most searched term in 2021 and 2020 in India. Globally, the IPL was the 10th most searched term this year. In fact, globally, four of the top 10 searched topics involved cricket. Three of these were bilateral series involving India – India versus England, India versus South Africa and India versus West Indies.

This is not surprising given India's population advantage. The only other country with a comparable population – China – was out of the equation as Google is blocked in that country. Trends are measured at the country level, as places with the most search volume would always rank highest otherwise. Still, as global trends consider all Google users, data from India are bound to skew the data, as is evident from the results. For instance, in the U.S., neither the IPL nor any other cricket-related news featured in the top 10; Wordle was the most searched term in 2022. Incidentally, Wordle was the most searched item globally this year, given the huge interest it garnered in India too.

Along with the IPL, other sporting events such as the Asia Cup, the FIFA World Cup, the ICC T20 World Cup, the Commonwealth Games, and the Indian Super League (ISL) were also part of the top 10 searched items in India. These sport-related searches were confined to the days when the event was on. The IPL and the ISL had longer shelf lives compared to other sport events, given their relatively longer schedules.

Two other terms most searched in India in the first two months of 2022 were CoWIN and e-SHRAM card. CoWIN trended then as people were searching for places where they could get their COVID-19 booster doses and where their teenage children could get shots after vaccination began for 15-18-year-olds. E-SHRAM cards are issued for any unorganised worker aged between 16 and 59 years and are used to identify beneficiaries for insurance schemes and other related assistance.

The films *Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva* and *K.G.F: Chapter 2* – were the other two terms most searched in India. The other movies which were not part of the top 10 overall searches but featured in the top 10 movie-related searches were *The Kashmir Files, RRR, Kantara, Pushpa: The Rise, Vikram, Laal Singh Chaddha, Drishyam 2* and *Thor: Love and Thunder*.

Chart 1 shows the most searched terms by Indians in 2022. The darker the shade, the higher the popularity of the topic/trend at that time. The darkest shade represents the peak popularity of a search term this year. The lightest shade corresponds to nearly no searches for that term on a date. The topics are arranged chronologically based on their peak popularity, and the number indicates the overall popularity rank.

Nupur Sharma, a former national spokesperson of the BJP; Droupadi Murmu, President; and Rishi Sunak, the U.K. Prime Minister were the most searched personalities. Lalit Modi and Sushmita Sen were also part of the list.

'What is Agneepath Scheme', 'what is NATO' and 'what is NFT' were the top searches under the 'what is' category. 'How to download vaccination certificate' and 'how to download Professional Tax Enrolment Certificates' were the top searches under the 'how to' category. Paneer pasanda, modak and chicken soup were the most searched recipes this year. 'Covid vaccines near me', 'swimming pool near me', 'water park near me' were top searches under the 'near me'category. **Table 2** lists the 10 most searched topics under a category in India in 2022.

Search history

The charts show the most searched topic of 2022 in India in various categories. The data were sourced from Google Trends.

Chart 1 : The chart shows the most searched terms by Indians in 2022. The darker the shade, the higher the popularity

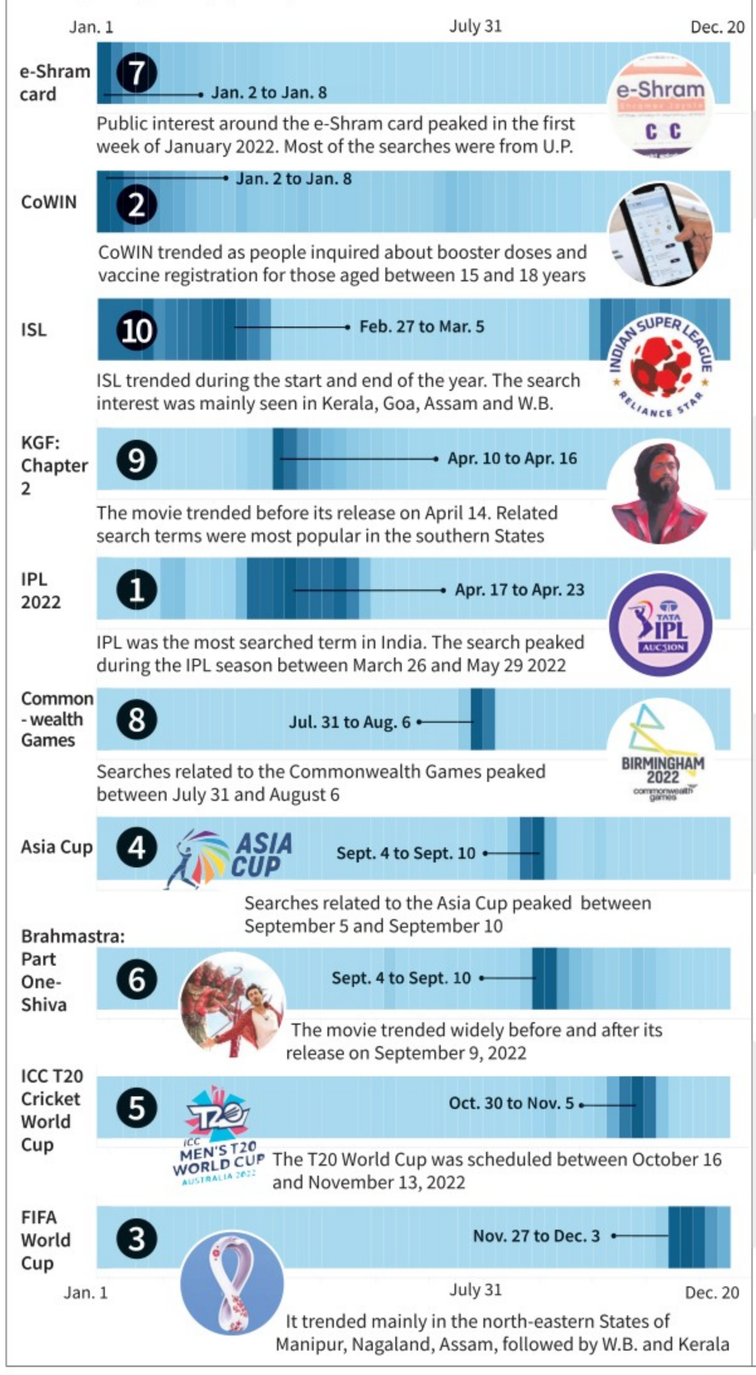


Table 2 : The table lists the top 10 most searched topics under a category. For instance, under the search category "what is", the topic that found the most interest was "What is Agneepath Scheme"

What is...	1. Agneepath Scheme | 2. NATO | 3. NFT | 4. PFI | 5. Square root of 4 | 6. Surrogacy | 7. Solar eclipse | 8. Article 370 | 9. Metaverse | 10. Myositis
How to...	1. Download vaccination certificate | 2. Download PTRC challan | 4. Make a e-SHRAM card | 5. Stop motions during pregnancy | 6. Link voter ID with Aadhar | 7. Make banana bread | 8. File ITR online | 9. Write Hindi text on image | 10. Play wordle
... near me	1. COVID vaccine | 2. Swimming pool | 3. Water park | 4. Movies | 5. Takout restaurants open now | 6. Malls | 7. Metro station | 8. RT-PCR | 9. Polio drops | 10. Rental houses
Movies	1. Brahmastra: Part One-Shiva | 2. K.G.F.: Chapter 2 | 3. The Kashmir Files | 4. RRR | 5. Kantara | 6. Pushpa: The Rise | 7. Vikram | 8. Laal Singh Chaddha | 9. Drishyam 2 | 10. Thor: Love and Thunder
People	1. Nupur Sharma | 2. Droupadi Murmu | 3. Rishi Sunak | 4. Lalit Modi | 5. Sushmita Sen | 6. Anjali Arora | 7. Abdu Rozik | 8. Eknath Shinde | 9. Pravin Thambe | 10. Amber Heard
Sports events	1. IPL | 2. FIFA World Cup | 3. Asia Cup | 4. T20 World Cup | 5. Commonwealth Games | 6. Indian Super League | 7. Pro Kabaddi League | 8. ICC Women's Cricket World Cup | 9. Australian Open | 10. Wimbledon
News events	1. Lata Mangeshkar passing | 2. Sidhu Moosewala passing | 3. Russia Ukraine war | 4. UP Election results | 5. Covid cases in India | 6. Shane Warne passing | 7. Queen Elizabeth passing | 8. KK passing | 9. Har Ghar Tiranga | 10. Bappi Lahiri passing
Recipes	1. Paneer Pasanda | 2. Modak | 4. Chicken soup | 5. Malai Kofta | 7. Pizza Margherita | 8. Pancake | 9. Paneer Burji | 10. Anarse

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 28, 1972

Will U.S. escalate bombing of North Vietnam?

Washington, Dec. 27: The heavy rate at which the United States is losing planes and pilots over North Vietnam since it resumed heavy air raids on the North on December 18 is beginning to attract public criticism and concern. According to the Pentagon itself, a dozen heavy B-52 bombers and nearly as many fighter bombers have been lost in the space of one week alone. Hanoi on the other hand claims that it has shot down as many as 54 planes of all descriptions. The huge B-52s cost between $8 to $10 millions apiece and their losses alone accounts for over $100 millions upto date. These bombers carry a crew of six or more men and the loss of men todate totals 60 – this is one seventh of the 420 odd prisoners reported in North Vietnamese custody. Though the Pentagon maintains that this is a normal rate of attrition in raids involving 100 bombers a day, the fear is that if the raids are kept up at the current pace, the loss rate will become unconscionable. The Nixon Administration did not acknowledge the 36 hour bombing pause during Xmas until it resumed the raids yesterday. It has also said little or nothing about the purpose of the raids. Initially a White House spokesman had contended that the bombing was undertaken in order to forestall an imminent communist offensive, but the U.S. has since given up that argument. Its objective therefore seems to be to bring Hanoi back to the Paris talks and agree to a compromise that it has so far rejected. Even the most conservative eye witness accounts from Hanoi and Haiphong indicate that almost all targets of any military value in those two cities have already been reduced to rubble. A continuation of the bombing could only have the effect of making the rubble bounce – or destroy the civilian population which, according to the U.S., is not the aim it has in mind.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 28, 1922

Christmas storm

London, Dec. 27: Mariners tell thrilling stories of Christmas storm which they declare was the worst in the Atlantic within long long long experience. The total of damage is not yet known but much wreckage has been washed up. A London steamer was last heard of calling for assistance off the coast of Pembrokeshire when answering steamer was unable to locate her. It is feared that the crew of 26 are lost.

From Page One

States test COVID units to review preparedness

"For four days, tests administered to symptomatic persons have been increased and we are also motivating people to come forward for more tests at medical colleges and hospitals or at primary health centres too. We are prepared for a possible surge of COVID-19," K.K. Roy, Patna's civil surgeon, told *The Hindu*.

Brajesh Pathak, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister, visited a facility in Lucknow to ascertain its preparedness. Two new COVID-19 cases have been detected in the State in the past two days. Amid rising fear that the new variants may trigger a spike in cases, the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday asked people to wear masks in crowded places and at all medical facilities.

In Karnataka, drills were conducted in various government hospitals and private hospitals that were earlier designated as COVID hospitals. State Health Minister K. Sudhakar said all the designated COVID hospitals would reserve 50-60 beds for COVID patients. The drill checked oxygen, ward, ICU, doctors and medical staff availability and overall infrastructure.

Karnataka was continuing its policy of testing 2% of international arrivals at the Bengaluru and Mangaluru airports. Bowring Hospital in Bengaluru and Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru were announced as designated quarantine facilities for symptomatic passengers. The Karnataka government has also asked for additional vaccine doses from the Centre and planned to conduct camps to ensure better coverage of booster dose.

In Hyderabad, a drill was conducted at the Gandhi Hospital. The test found that the hospital currently has 1,890 beds out of which 650 are ICU beds equipped with ventilators, another 600 beds are oxygen beds and the rest, regular beds. There were 530 ventilators, 475 multi-channel monitors, 100 continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machines, 50 BiPAP machines and 100 high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) machines.

"As the Gandhi Hospital has served people during two major COVID waves, everybody is trained and geared up for anything that comes in the future as well. People need not worry or panic. At the same time, they should take enough care, especially those belonging to the high-risk category," Raja Rao, Superintendent of the hospital, said.

Kerala well-prepared

"Kerala is well-prepared to meet any surge in COVID cases because our hospital infrastructure is in place. We reckon that we have adequate hospital beds, oxygen beds and critical care beds and we are self-sufficient in medical oxygen. At the PHC/CHC levels too, a lot of investment has been done in putting systems in place. In the case of human resources, we might need to pull in people from local bodies in the event of a surge but we do not see that happening," Tinku Biswal, Principal Secretary, Kerala (Health), said.

Teams deployed by the Department of Health and Family Welfare at the airports in Andhra Pradesh have been testing at least 5% of the international passengers arriving at the Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada airports. The Health Department had been conducting drills at the hospitals in the State, Health and Family Welfare commissioner, J. Nivas, said.

Mock drills were conducted at 302 hospitals in the State on Monday and Tuesday involving all the staff and officials. The drill reviewed the status of the beds, drugs availability, oxygen infrastructure, isolation beds and also the staff, he said.

Odisha CID to probe death of Putin critic

The body was found in a pool of blood on the roof of a nearby building on December 24, the Rayagada police said on Tuesday.

The Odisha Crime Branch police began a probe after the identity of the deceased was revealed. "As of now, we have not found any foul play. The post-mortem report says heart problem was the reason behind the death of Bydanov. The exact reason would be known when the final report is received. Preliminary investigation says Antov had ended his life," Mr. Bansal said.

"The Consulate General of Russia in Kolkata is following the case in touch with the local authorities. According to information available to the police, no criminal aspect is seen," said the Russian Embassy in a statement.

The tourists who accompanied Antov are Turov Mikhail, 63, and Panasenko Natalia, a couple. After landing in Bhubaneswar, they had gone to Daringbadi in Kandhamal district.

Both cremated

"On the evening of December 21, 2022, they had a drink in the hotel room. Bydanov was found dead on the morning of December 22. According to doctors, Bydanov had died of a heart attack. He had consumed alcohol in empty stomach," Rashmi Ranjan Pradhan, inspector in-charge of the Rayagada police station, said. "It took two days to receive permission for cremating Bydanov on December 24. After cremation, Antov fell from the hotel roof," said the police inspector. Antov's body was also cremated in Rayagada.

Antov appeared to have slipped into depression following the death of his friend, said hotel manager Kaushik Thakkar. Both the deceased were staying in one room.

Mr. Mikhail and Ms. Natalia, who are from the Krasnodar Territory, Belozechensk, Russia, have left for Bhubaneswar. Bydanov was from Yoshkar Ola Soviet Street of Russia.

EC to begin delimitation exercise in Assam, to use Census figures of 2001

There will be a ban on the creation of new administrative units from January 1 till the completion of the readjustment process; State has 14 Lok Sabha, 126 Assembly and seven Rajya Sabha seats

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mandatory operation: During the exercise, the commission will keep in mind the physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facility of communication, public convenience. FILE PHOTO

The Election Commission on Tuesday said it would begin the delimitation exercise of Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies in Assam.

The Census figures of 2001 would be used for the delimitation process.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel have directed the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam to take up the matter with the State government to issue a complete ban on the creation of new administrative units from January 1, the EC said in a statement.

The term of the current Assam Legislative Assembly will end on May 20, 2026. The State has 14 Lok Sabha, 126 Assembly and seven Rajya Sabha seats.

The commission added that the delimitation exercise was being carried out following a request from the Ministry of Law and Justice in November. It would be carried out as per Section 8A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

"As mandated under Article 170 of the Constitution, Census figures of 2001 shall be used for readjustment of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in the State. Reservation of seats for SC and ST will be provided as per Articles 330 and 332 of the Constitution of India," it said.

The entire guidelines and methodology for the delimitation process would be designed and finalised by the Election Commission itself. During the exercise, the commission will keep in mind the physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facility of communication, and public convenience.

Public review

Once a draft proposal for the delimitation of constituencies is finalised by the commission, it will be published in the Central and State gazettes for inviting suggestions or objections from the general public.

"In this regard, a notice will also be published in two vernacular newspapers of the State specifying the date and venue for public sittings to be held in the State," the commission said.

The last delimitation of constituencies in Assam was done based on the Census figures of 1971 by the then Delimitation Commission in 1976. The delimitation process in the four northeastern States of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh was deferred in 2008 due to security issues.

Maharashtra House passes resolution to pursue inclusion of Karnataka villages

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to legally pursue the inclusion

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution to legally pursue the inclusion of 865 Marathi-speaking villages in Karnataka into Maharashtra.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde tabled the resolution in Nagpur to fight the case in the Supreme Court to include Belgaum, Karwar, Nipani, Bidar Bhalki and other villages in Maharashtra. The resolution was passed unanimously.

It stated that the Union government should urge the Government of Karnataka to implement the decision taken during a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah to ensure the safety of Marathi-speaking people in Karnataka.

On December 14, Mr. Shah said both States should not make any claim against each other until the Supreme Court gave its verdict.

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday said the State government should request the Supreme Court that all disputed regions be declared as a Union Territory as long as the Maharashtra-Karnataka boundary issue was pending before it.

Speaking to reporters in Nagpur, Mr. Thackeray congratulated the Maharashtra government after the Legislative Assembly passed resolutions on the dispute. "We will support every measure that is in Maharashtra's interest, he said.

Speaking at the Legislative Council on Monday, Mr. Thackeray had hit out at Mr. Shinde's "passiveness", and asked why the Chief Minister was "reluctant" to speak on the issue when his Karnataka counterpart was "making one provocative statement after the other".

(With PTI inputs)

Explained | What is the Karnataka-Maharashtra border dispute?
bit.ly/boundarydispute

HC order on urban local body polls without OBC reservation raises political temperature in U.P.

Mayank Kumar
Ishita Mishra
LUCKNOW/DELHI

The Allahabad High Court's decision on Tuesday ordering the Uttar Pradesh government to notify the urban local body (ULB) polls at the earliest without any reservation for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) has raised the political temperature in the State.

While the Opposition alleged the Bharatiya Janata Party-(BJP) led government of being anti-OBC, the government said municipal polls in the State would not be held without OBC reservation.

Reacting to the High Court's decision amid the Opposition's allegations, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said, "Uttar Pradesh government will set a commission and will provide reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBC) people on the basis of the 'triple test formula' after which the municipal polls will be held. If needed, we will approach the honourable Supreme Court after going through the verdict of the honourable High Court."

'Plan to destroy rights'

Samajwadi Party (SP) president and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav accused the BJP was being anti-OBC. "Today, the BJP has taken away the reservation rights of backward classes, tomorrow they will also take away the reservation given to Dalits by Babasaheb B.R. Ambedkar," he said.

The former Chief Minister said the BJP had also conspired to destroy the Constitutional rights given by B.R. Ambedkar to the underprivileged.

The High Court's decision comes after a number of public interest litigation (PIL) pleas were filed in the court alleging that the State had not been complying with the 'triple test mandate' set by the top court while exercising the reservations of seats in civic body polls.

The judgment on the ULB polls was delivered by a Bench of Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Saurabh Lavania, which quashed the Uttar Pradesh government's recent order on inviting objections to the proposed determination of the number of offices of the chairpersons of different municipal bodies to be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, the Backward Classes and women.

List of directions

The court also quashed the State government order which provided for operation of bank accounts of municipalities under joint signatures of executive officers and the senior-most officer in 'Uttar Pradesh Palika Centralised Service (Accounts Cadre)'.

The court further directed the government that until the triple test conditions as mandated by the Supreme Court were completed in all respects, no reservation for Other Backward Classes should be provided.

"The process of completion of triple test/conditions is likely to take considerable time. Hence, it is directed that the State government and State Election Commission to notify the elections immediately," the court said.

It also maintained that while notifying the elections the seats and offices of chairpersons, except those to be reserved for SC and ST, shall be notified as for general/open category.

Anil Deshmukh

Bombay HC paves way for Deshmukh's release

Sonam Saigal
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday paved the way for the release of former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh in an alleged ₹100 crore corruption case by the CBI.

The Central agency had moved a Vacation Bench of Justice S.G. Chapalgaonkar, seeking an extension on the stay for the execution of bail granted to Mr. Deshmukh. The CBI's counsel, Shreeram Shirsat, said that a special leave petition (SLP) had been filed before the Supreme Court. However, they had not been able to mention it before the top court. Therefore, he sought an extension on the stay.

Stay denied

Advocate Aniket Nikam, appearing for Mr. Deshmukh, opposed the request and pointed out that the SLP had been filed on December 16 and therefore, no relief should be granted.

The Bench referred to the order passed by Justice M.S. Karnik on December 12, which was stayed for 10 days. Another Bench had granted a stay on the order till December 27. However, Justice Chapalgaonkar refused to entertain the plea by the CBI. The Bench noted the agency's request could not be allowed since a vacation court cannot overrule a regular court's decision.

Centre yet to make its stand clear on Ram Setu petition

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The statement by the Union government in Parliament that satellite imagery cannot provide "direct information" about the origin and age of the structure in the Ram Setu region comes even as a prolonged litigation initiated by former Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy to declare the Ramu Setu a national heritage monument lies pending in the Supreme Court.

The hearing on this petition has been adjourned repeatedly because the government has not filed an affidavit making its stand clear on Mr. Swamy's plea.

In the last hearing on November 10, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud asked the government why it was "dragging its feet" even for filing an affidavit.

The government, interestingly, replied that the affidavit was ready but it was waiting for the approval of the Ministry concerned. The court's four-week deadline since then to file it is over.

Advocate Satyapaul Sabharwal told *The Hindu* that the Union government had not filed its reply.

Satellite images

However, while the Centre came across as reluctant to show its cards on the issue in the Supreme Court, the verbatim debates on the Ram Setu in the Rajya Sabha indicate that satellite images had hardly helped pinpoint the nature of the structure.

"The history dates back to more than 18,000 years and if you go by history, that bridge was about 56 km long. Yes, to some extent, through space technology we have been able to discover pieces and islands, some kind of limestone shoals, which of course, can't be accurately said to be remnants or parts of a bridge," Union Minister Jitendra Singh said in the Rajya Sabha recently.

The Minister, though doubting the accuracy, acknowledged that there was a "certain amount of continuity in location through which some surmises can be drawn".

"So, what I am trying to say in short is that it is difficult to actually pinpoint the exact structure that existed there, but there is some kind of an indication, direct or indirect, that those structures have existed," the Minister left the debate open.

HC refuses urgent hearing to Kochhars' plea seeking release

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to grant urgent hearing to former managing director and chief executive officer of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar and her husband, Deepak, seeking release in the ICICI bank loan fraud case.

Advocate Kushal Mor, for the couple, called their arrest illegal. He argued before a Vacation Bench of Justices Madhav Jamdar and S.G. Chapalgaonkar that an arrest under the Prevention of Corruption Act required previous sanction.

The arrest of the Kochhars was carried out after four years, which was a violation of Section 41A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, he said

Mr. Mor said the plea was for quashing the FIR. The court, however, said there was no urgency. "You can apply for bail in regular court also," it said.

'Need to be in custody'

On Monday, Videocon Group promoter Venugopal Dhoot was also arrested and sent to CBI custody for three days.

The court also extended the agency's custody of the Kochhars for three days. The court said, "To unearth real facts in respect to alleged offence, custodial interrogation of the accused is very important as they need to confront the newly arrested accused (Mr. Dhoot) who is also not cooperating like the present accused (Kochhars)."

An FIR was registered by CBI in January 2019 that charged Ms. Kochhar with cheating and criminal conspiracy and for sanctioning loans to Videocon Group in contravention of the rules and policies of ICICI Bank.

Congress, BJP engage in a war of words over Vadra land deal

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia calls the Gandhis the most corrupt family in Indian politics; Congress retorts that the ruling party at the Centre is losing its balance due to the popularity of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and is therefore peddling lies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP and the Congress engaged in a sharp exchange of words on Tuesday over the rejection of a plea filed by Robert Vadra, husband of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi, in the Rajasthan High Court to quash a money laundering investigation against him.

Citing the court order, the BJP called the Gandhi family the "most corrupt family" in Indian politics.

The Congress hit back saying that the BJP was rattled by the popularity of the Bharat Jodo Yatra and was therefore peddling "lies" to victimise Mr. Vadra. The Congress said the BJP was "losing its balance".

The exchange was first started by BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia, who asked Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi to break their "silence" on the corruption and money-laundering allegations against Mr. Vadra. "This is a *kattar paapi parivaar* (extremely immoral family) of India. Its only work has been to do corruption and grab land to hand over to Vadra," he said. Rejecting the Congress's charge of a political witch-hunt against Mr. Vadra, he claimed that it amounted to casting aspersions on the judiciary for refusing to quash charges against Mr. Vadra.

> The then government headed by Ashok Gehlot bypassed laws and rules to appease Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra
>
> **GAURAV BHATIA**
> BJP spokesperson

> BJP is making false allegations against the Cong. govt. in Rajasthan and Vadra as he has not been named in any of the FIRs on the land deal case
>
> **RANDEEP SURJEWALA**
> Congress general secretary

"Three members of the family are out on bail in corruption cases. It is a serious matter of concern for a government with zero tolerance for corruption," he said, referring to the *National Herald* case in which both Ms. Sonia Gandhi and Mr. Gandhi face corruption allegations.

Citing the details of the case against Mr. Vadra, Mr. Bhatia said the Congress government in Rajasthan during 2008-2013 acquired land and allotted it to non-existent people. A huge parcel of land ended up in the ownership of the company in which Mr. Vadra and his mother were partners through a maze of transactions involving fictitious entities, he alleged.

"The then government headed by Ashok Gehlot bypassed laws and rules to appease Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law," he alleged.

Rebutting Mr. Bhatia's charges, Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala said the BJP was hurling fake allegations against Mr. Vadra, who was a "victim of a fraudulent land deal".

Mr. Surjewala claimed that the land of Mahajan Firing Range in Bikaner district was allotted in 2007 by the then BJP government to two fictitious persons – Hari Ram and Natharam – who sold it to two others, Rajender Kumar and Kishore Singh, through a registered land deed. Mr. Vadra's Skylight Hospitality purchased the land from them three years later on January 4, 2010.

"The BJP is making false allegations against the Congress government in Rajasthan and Robert Vadra as he has not been named in any of the FIRs on the Bikaner land deal case and the government has not been able to prove any of the charges against him for the past eight years of being in power," Mr. Surjewala said, adding that the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation were issued diktats by the Narendra Modi government to file a case against Mr. Vadra.

J&K leaders laud Bharat Jodo Yatra, express wish to join

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra has struck a chord with the top regional players in Jammu and Kashmir, including Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah of the National Conference, and Mehbooba Mufti of the Peoples Democratic Party.

The leaders have not only expressed their wish to join the yatra but have also pitched for aligning secular forces in the country.

For the past one month, Ms. Mufti, former J&K Chief Minister, has been hailing Mr. Gandhi's yatra in her speeches across the Union Territory. She has described Mr. Gandhi as the custodian of the value system handed down by Nehru and Gandhi to India.

"I salute Mr. Gandhi's indomitable courage. Mahatma Gandhi laid down his life for communal harmony and brotherhood and Mr. Gandhi is fighting to uphold those values in the face of the brazen attempts by the current regime to dismantle the foundations of India," Ms. Mufti said in Jammu on Monday.

On joining the yatra, Ms. Mufti said, "I believe it is my duty to stand with someone who has the courage to challenge fascist forces. Will be joining him in his march towards a better India."

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, too, praised Mr. Gandhi in his speeches and expressed desire to receive him personally at Lakhanpur, on the boundary between Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.

National Conference sources have said that Mr. Omar Abdullah will also be part of the yatra. CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tarigami and JD(U) leaders are among the prominent names planning to join Mr. Gandhi.

Mehbooba Mufti

Meanwhile, sources said the Congress has formally invited J&K-based parties to join the yatra. All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary K.C. Venugopal and J&K incharge Rajani Patil, who are in Srinagar to oversee the arrangements ahead of Mr. Gandhi's visit, have praised the response of the regional leaders.

"I am very much happy to say that leaders like Dr. Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, Ms. Mufti and others are joining the yatra in J&K. Like-minded people and parties across India have expressed the will to join it and the impact of yatra is increasing with each passing day," Mr. Venugopal said.

The more than three-month-long yatra by the Congress is likely to culminate in Srinagar with the unfurling of the Tricolour. "The yatra is aimed at sending a clear and loud message to divisive forces such as the BJP and Sangh Parivar, which have caused massive damage to the country and the Constitution. It's a socio-political initiative to protect the idea of India," Mr. Venugopal said.

Congress, CPI(M) seek 'restoration of democracy' in Tripura

Syed Sajjad Ali
AGARTALA

The CPI(M) and a few other Left parties and the Congress in Tripura have moved forward on the issue of forging an alliance for the Assembly election due in February.

The parties released an unprecedented joint statement on Tuesday seeking "restoration of democracy, re-establishment of rule of law and conduct of free elections". Attacking the BJP for imposing a "one-party tyrannical rule" in the State, they said: "Independent functioning of the Opposition parties has been immobilised through throttling their voices and the election has been reduced to a farcical event."

CPI(M) State secretary Jitendra Chaudhury, Congress State president Birajit Sinha, and State unit chiefs of the CPI, the RSP, the Forward Bloc and the CPI(M-L) are signatories of the joint statement. Mr. Chaudhury claimed that TIPRA chief Pradyot Kishore Debbarman had broadly endorsed the views expressed in the statement.

"Incidents such as murder, terror activities, looting and extortion are now common features in the State," it added and blamed sections of the administration and the police for "helping the ruling party to carry out unconstitutional and undemocratic actions".

It urged people, irrespective of their community, identity and belief, to come forward to "end this black regime". The statement also appealed to the EC to take proactive measures to conduct free and fair elections in the State.

Names of Trinamool councillors, leader's kin surface in Bengal teacher recruitment scam

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The names of two councillors of the Trinamool Congress and the son of a panchayat pradhan have figured on the list of 952 candidates whose marks in the entrance examination were manipulated to get jobs as teachers in State-run schools.

On Tuesday, posters came up in the Balurghat municipality against Dipanita Deb Singh, a councillor of ward number 24. The posters accused the councillor of getting a job as a biology teacher in a State-run school using unfair means. Her name had figured on the list of 952 candidates whose OMR (optical mark reader) sheets were manipulated.

The Calcutta High Court last week asked the West Bengal School Service Commission to publish the names of candidates whose OMR sheets were tampered with. Earlier, the name of another councillor of the ruling party had surfaced on the list of those whose OMR sheet was allegedly fudged.

The name of Kuheli Ghosh, the Trinamool Congress councillor representing ward number 18 of Rajpur-Sonarpur municipality in South 24 Parganas district, was also on the list. Ms. Ghosh is currently employed as a secondary teacher of history in a State-run school in the district. Another teacher whose name has created a controversy is Nazimmullah, son of Mohammad Isha Sardar, the elected functionary of a Trinamool Congress-run panchayat samity at Barasat in North 24 Parganas district.

The CBI found that the OMR sheets of 952 candidates were fudged to give them higher marks in the process

HC order

All the teachers whose names figure on the list have gone missing from the schools since the list was made public. Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay of the Calcutta High Court had directed the CBI to investigate the allegations of corruption in the recruitment of teachers and non-teaching staff.

The CBI found that the OMR sheets of the 952 candidates were fudged to give the candidates higher marks in the recruitment process.

The development has embarrassed the Trinamool leadership as it comes at a time when it is already feeling the heat of the recruitment scam. Former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee and several officials of the State Education Department are behind bars for their alleged involvement in the scam.

Senior advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, who has been representing petitioners alleging corruption in the recruitment process, said the developments indicated a "planned scam" which could not have occurred without the knowledge of the higher-ups in the government, including the Chief Minister.

Mr. Bhattacharya, who is also a Rajya Sabha member representing the Communist Party of India (Marxist), said that attempts would be made to foil the investigation.

Centre signs peace pact with Naga armed group

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government and the Manipur government have signed a cessation of operations agreement with the Zeliangrong United Front (ZUF), a Manipur-based Naga armed group.

The banned group, active for a decade, has been demanding a separate State for the Zeliangrong Naga tribe.

The Union Home Ministry, in a statement, said the agreement would be a significant boost to the peace process in Manipur. It was signed by senior officers of the Ministry, the Government of Manipur and the representatives of the ZUF in the presence of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

"Representatives of the armed group agreed to abjure violence and join the peaceful democratic process as established by law of the land. The agreement provides for rehabilitation and resettlement of the armed cadres. A joint monitoring group will be constituted to oversee enforcement of the agreed ground rules," the Ministry said.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत हनुमानगढ़
क्रमांकः 3219-32 दिनांकः 16.12.2022
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 05/2022-23
इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से जिला हनुमानगढ़ में सड़क निर्माण कार्य (मय पांच वर्ष के दोष निवारण व सुधार अवधि) हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्यों के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 09.01.2023 (सोमवार) सायं 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त निविदा से संबंधित विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://sppp.rajasthan. gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
कार्य का एन.आई.बी. नं. PWD2223A3294
यू.बी.एन. नं.: PWD2223WSOB12983, PWD2223WSOB12984, PWD2223WSOB12985, PWD2223WSOB12986
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
डीआईपीआर/सी/16276/2022 सा.नि.वि. वृत हनुमानगढ़

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत अलवर
सा.नि.वि. परिसर, अशोका टाकीज के पास, कचहरी रोड, अलवर
फोनः 0144-2737038, E-mail:-sealw.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
क्रमांकः 4035 दिनांकः 16.12.2022
NIT No 24/2022-23
Bids for 2 Package Road construction works In Alwar distt are invited from interested bidder from 16.12.2022 04.00 PM upto 06.01.2023 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.raj.nic.in of the state and http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurements is 424.30/- Lacs. (2 Package Road construction works)
UBN No. : Road work: -

1. PWD2223WSOB12921	2.PWD2223WSOB12931

Superintending Engineer
DIPR/C/16316/2022 PWD Circle Alwar

SUCHITWA MISSION
SUCHITWA MISSION
LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Ph : 0471 2316730, 2319831
sanitationkerala@gmail.com
www.suchitwamission.org
EXPRESSION OF EOI (EOI)
5127/C4/2022/SM 27.12.2022
Suchitwa Mission invited EoI for empaneling agencies for providing new Solid Waste Management technology / device / service provider vide notification No. 5127/C4/2022/SM dated 09/12/2022 (Details available at www.suchitwamission.org).
The last date for submission of the EoI is extended to 07.01.2023 before 5.00 PM.
Sd/-
Executive Director

TELANGANA FOODS
IDA : NACHARAM : HYDERABAD - 500076 Phone No. 27152207, 08 & 09
Tender Notification No. TF/GG/tender/ Raw Materials & PM/1318/2022-23 Dt. 26.12.2022
Telangana Foods invites e-Tenders for procurement of 5500 MTs of S-30 Grade Sugar, 2400 MTs of RBD-RPO, 5500 MTs of Bengalgram Dall(AGMARK), 400 MTs of Maize and 400 MTs of Laminated Film Rolls (2.5 Kg pack). For details please visit website: **https://tender.eprocurement.**gov.in and website: **https: //tfoods.telangana,gov.in**
R.O. No.:1090-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 **Sd/- Managing Director**

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008
Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/13/17/03/2021-Estt. (Pay)
Advertisement for Recruitment of Professor of Practice (PoP)
(On Contract)
Extension of last date upto 15.01.2023
The Indian Maritime University invites applications from distinguished professionals for the post of Professor of Practice (PoP) (On Contract) in the School of Marine Engineering and School of Nautical Science.

Name of the Post	No. of Posts	Pay Level & Likely Place of Posting
Professor of Practice (PoP) (On Contract)	School of Marine Engineering: 1	Academic Pay Level-14 as per the 7th CPC Pay Matrix. Pay and other benefits as that of a regular Professor of IMU.
	School of Nautical Science: 1	Liable to be posted in the any of IMU Campuses/HQ as per requirements of the University.

For detailed eligibility criteria such as Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, Mode/Method of Recruitment etc., please scan the QR code or visit ***www.imu.edu.in***
Important date:
Closing date for submission of online application extended upto : **15.01.2023**
REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Quotations (RFQ)
Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No. /Credit No. : 9066-IN
Grant No. :
Date : December 28, 2022
The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 , Himachal Pradesh India invitesRequest for Quotations from NationalSuppliers for the Goods Procurementas detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Goods	Date of availability of Request for Quotations on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/time for submission/ opening of Proposals
1.	Procurement of Rescue Equipment to Support Post-Crash Care Interventions of HP Police in district Shimla & Nurpur Police Districts	December 28, 2022	January16, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)

Request for Quotation (RFQ) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDC under lin http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html.
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Quotation Proposal Documents shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **January16, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST)** positively. **Director (Projects)-cum-CE,**
HP/ 0652/2022-2023 **H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002**

E-mail :- seruraljaipur@gmail.com
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सा.नि.वि., वृत्त - ग्रामीण, जयपुर
पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस, जैकब रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर
फोन :- 0141-2223527
क्रमांकः 9408-30 दिनांकः 08.12.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या 14/2022-23
बजट घोषणा योजनान्तर्गत विभिन्न सड़कों का निर्माण का कार्य (02 पैकेज) एवं एक भवन कार्य हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं द्वारा दिनांक 04.01.2023 तक निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबन्धित अन्य विवरण राज्य की उपापन पोर्टल (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) एवं विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd. rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं। उपापन की अनुमानित कुल लागत रूपये रू.615.44 लाख है।
UBN No PWD2223WSOB12523, PWD2223WSOB12651 PWD2223WSOB12652
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. ग्रामीण वृत्त- जयपुर
DIPR/C/16206/22 फोन नं. 0141-2223527

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Quotations (RFQ)
Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No. /Credit No. : 9066-IN
Grant No. :
Date : December 30, 2022
The Director (Projects)-cum-CE, H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 , Himachal Pradesh India invites Request for Quotations from National Suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Goods procurement	Date of availability of Request for Quotation on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/time for submission/ opening of Proposals
1.	Procurement of Patrol Motorcycles to Support Annual Enforcement Program of HP Police in Shimla & Nurpur Police Districts	December 30, 2022	January18, 2023 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)

Request for Quotation(RFQ) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDC under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html.
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Quotation Proposals Documents shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by **January 18, 2023 at 15:00 hours (IST)** positively. **Director (Projects)-cum-CE,**
HP/ 0653/2022-2023 **H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत्त जालोर
क्रमांकः 2324 दिनांकः 15.12.2022
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या : 09 वर्ष 2022-2023
NIB No.: PWD2223A3249
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्यों हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 4 पैकेज कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रू. 917.00 लाख है के लिए ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	17 दिसम्बर 2022, 9:30 बजे से 26 दिसम्बर 2022, सायं 06:00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट पर http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। कार्यवार यू.बी.एन. संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
(1) UBN No.- PWD2223WSOB12820 (2) UBN No.- PWD2223WSOB12821
(3) UBN No.- PWD2223WSOB12822 (4) UBN No.- PWD2223WSOB12823
(एन.एस. चौधरी)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत्त, जालोर
डीआईपीआर/सी/16182/2022 मोबाईल- 9414019723

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Project Central-6, BBMP, Bengaluru-560002.
No: EE/PC-6/TEND/06/2022-23 **Date: 27-12-2022**
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification) (Through GOK E-Procurement Portal Only)
The Executive Engineer, Project Central-6 BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Apprx. Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Construction of 04 Urban Primary Health Centre Buildings in Ward No: 53, 54, 82 & 150 and Repair & Upgradation of 07 Urban Primary Health Centre's in Ward No. 23, 56, 83, 85, 86, 87 & 149 of Mahadevpura Zone limits, Bengaluru.	463.48	6.95 Lakhs (Rs. One Lakh through E- procurement & remaining as specified in Bid Document)

Calender of Events: 1) Documents may be downloaded through e-protal from: **28.12.2022 onwards.** 2) Last date for receipt of queries is: **07.01.2023 upto 17:30 Hrs.** in the above office address. 3) Pre-Bid meeting will be held on: **09.01.2023 at 16:00 Hrs.** in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Project-Central. 4) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal **on or before 17:30 Hrs on 13.01.2023.** 5) Technical Bids will be opened on the website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** in the above office address on: **16.01.2023 at 11:00 Hrs.**
Further details can be had from the Office the above office during Office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Project Central-6, BBMP.

INBRIEF

Pakistani film starring Fawad Khan to release in India

Pakistani film *The Legend of Maula Jatt*, starring Fawad Khan and Mahira Khan, will be released in India on December 30, an INOX official said. This will perhaps be the first film from Pakistan in over a decade to get a theatrical release here. "It will be played in Punjab and a few theatres in New Delhi in INOX where there are Punjabi speaking people," Rajender Singh Jyala, chief programming officer, INOX Leisure Ltd. The action drama, which has become the highest-grossing Pakistani film of all time amassing $10 million, was released on October 13. Mahira and Fawad are familiar to Indian audiences through their series *Humsafar*. PTI

Cong. to move SC against Pragya over 'hate speech'

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday said BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur's remarks at a function in Shivamogga in Karnataka are a clear example of hate speech and that he would move the Supreme Court against her. Mr. Ramesh said the MP's remarks clearly seek to divide society, while claiming that the local police would not act against her since the BJP is in power in the State. Ms. Thakur, addressing the Hindu Jagarana Vedike's southern region annual convention on Sunday, had said Hindus have the right to respond to those who attack them and their dignity while speaking about the killing of Hindu activists. PTI

U.P. pastor held for allegedly trying to convert people

A pastor was arrested from Rampur district in U.P. for allegedly inducing some people belonging to a Scheduled Caste community to convert to Christianity. The incident came to light after a villager of Sohna village complained that a pastor named Paulus Masih was allegedly luring some people belonging to an SC community to convert to Christianity on the occasion of Christmas in the village, after which the local police registered a case and arrested the pastor named Paulus Masih on Monday. The police registered a case under Sections 5(1) and Section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021.

Sugar cane farmers to hold protests seeking MSP hike

Haryana sugar cane farmers have decided to kick off a State-wide agitation outside the residences of ruling coalition legislators and sugar mills to seek a hike in the crop's minimum support price (MSP). The decision was taken at a meeting of representatives of the Ganna Kisan Sangharsh Samiti and Bharatiya Kisan Union (Charuni) in Karnal. They have decided to burn effigies outside the MLAs' residences on December 29 and stop sugar cane supply to mills for three hours on January 5 as a mark of protest. The farmers will also start sit-in agitations outside the sugar mills across the State on January 5 until their demands are met.

Parliamentary panel pulls up govt. for failure to create Tourism Council

House committee also asks what steps were taken on the recommendation of including tourism on the Concurrent List as it will help the pandemic-hit sector and why some States are yet to accord industry status to hospitality projects

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Snail's pace: Progress rates have been less than expected in the Hazratbal project in Jammu and Kashmir and infrastructure development in Puri in Odisha. NISSAR AHMAD

Merely drafting a National Tourism Policy is not enough for the development of the tourism sector in the country, a parliamentary committee has said.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has suggested fast-tracking the creation of a National Tourism Council on the lines of the GST Council to directly make recommendations to the Union and the State governments.

Observing that "Vision without action is a daydream, and action without a vision is a nightmare", the panel sought to know from the government the action taken for the creation of the Tourism Council after the inter-ministerial consultations.

The committee also sought to know the steps taken by the Tourism Ministry regarding its earlier recommendation of including tourism on the Concurrent List.

"Inclusion of tourism on the Concurrent List will help in simplifying the issues of the pandemic-hit Indian tourism sector since tourism is a multi-sectoral activity. The Ministry should inform the committee whether any action has been taken on the long-standing recommendation," the committee said.

It also sought to know why some 20 States were yet to accord industry status to hospitality projects, and asked the Ministry whether anything in this regard has been conveyed by these States to the Centre.

As of now only eight States – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand – have accorded industry status to hospitality projects in their regions.

The committee also questioned the Centre over releasing a meagre ₹3.88 crore to Kerala for development of spiritual tourism as compared to ₹69.47 crore sanctioned.

It expressed concern that in projects sanctioned five years ago or before 2017-18, such as "Development at Hazratbal" in Jammu and Kashmir and "Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham - Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit" in Odisha, the progress rates achieved have been less than expected.

"Projects taking longer than five years may incur high cost and schedule or time overruns, which will put extra financial burden and resource crunch on the Ministry and implementing agencies involved," it further said.

Rathore, Adhia named advisers of Gujarat CM

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat government on Tuesday appointed retired IAS officer and former Union Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia as the Chief Adviser to Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Another retired bureaucrat, S.S. Rathore, has been designated as the Adviser to the Chief Minister. Both appointments are co-terminus with the the tenure of the Chief Minister.

"Adhia will render services as the Chief Adviser to the Chief Minister in finance, economic affairs, education, energy and non-conventional energy, policies related to investments and other areas as decided by the State government," a government order said.

Mr. Rathore will act as an adviser for policy-related monitoring and work in road-building, civil aviation, metro rail and railways and water resources.

I&B Ministry clears office space, to rent it out

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Information & Broadcasting Ministry has cleared workspace of about 11.5 lakh square feet at the offices of its departments in different parts of the country during the first phase of the cleanliness drive under the "Swachhata Abhiyan".

The vacated spaces are located in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kurnool, Chennai, Thrissur, Thiruvananthapuram, Jabalpur, Chandigarh Lucknow, Coimbatore, Panaji, Amritsar, Sambalpur, Bhawanipatna, Puducherry, Mangaluru, Berhampur and Bhopal.

Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur visited several offices to supervise the audit of workspace. The scrap removed from the offices has yielded revenue of about ₹22 crore so far.

The Ministry plans to rent out the reclaimed workspace to other departments, which will save substantial amounts that will be spent on renting private buildings.

18 States yet to receive ₹4,700 crore in MGNREGS wages from Union govt.

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

It has been a year since West Bengal stopped receiving Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds from the Centre over alleged widespread violations by the State government in its implementation.

With just three months to go for the financial year 2022-23 to end, the latest figures, however, show that the Centre's dues to many other States are also significantly high. The Centre, as on December 14, owes ₹4,700 crore in wages to 18 States and ₹5,450 crore in material cost to 19.

Of the ₹4,700 crore, ₹2,748 crore is due only to West Bengal. Even if the sum is set aside, nearly ₹2,000 crore has not been paid to 17 States.

Nagaland with just 4.32 lakh job cards has not been paid ₹192 crore for the wage component. The notified wage for Nagaland is ₹216 a day, which means that for nearly eight lakh days of work, no wages have been paid in the State.

Payment due: Workers at a site where MGNREGS work is being taken up in Chhattisgarh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Break in supply chain

There are other States with similarly high dues – for example, Uttar Pradesh has ₹284 crore, Bihar ₹287 crore, Jharkhand ₹263 crore and Tamil Nadu ₹173 crore. The MGNREG Act says funds have to be paid within 15 days.

Of the ₹5,450 crore due to 19 States in material costs, more than half is due to West Bengal. The State has not been paid ₹2,685 crore for the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

The Centre owes nearly ₹700 crore to Andhra Pradesh and ₹341 crore to Karnataka.

The material costs include wages of the mates/supervisors who are frontline monitors of the scheme.

The delay in material costs has a domino effect on work, since a delay in the payment breaks the supply chain. Because of prolonged delays in payments, the vendors are reluctant to supply new material.

The Ministry of Rural Development has asked for additional funds from the Finance Ministry to meet the shortfall.

Kashmiri Pandit staff petition tribunal over relocation issue

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

They want to strike down a clause which allows Pandit employees to serve only in Kashmir

Amid growing differences between the J&K Lieutenant Governor and the BJP over the ongoing protests by Kashmiri Pandits, migrant Pandit employees on Tuesday approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) to strike down a clause that makes it mandatory for such Pandit employees to serve only in the Kashmir division. The employees were posted in the Kashmir Valley under a special employment scheme.

A petition filed by Pandit employees Boopinder Bhat and Yogesh Pandita reads, "The targeted killings makes it crystal clear that the respondents (the J&K administration) have failed to provide a secure environment for Kashmiri Pandit employees at their place of posting. The rule is jeopardising the life and safety of the employees, which clearly violates the Right to Life under Article 21 of the Constitution and deserves to be set aside."

The petition is to be listed for a hearing by the tribunal on December 30.

The petition argues for doing away with the Sub-Rule 6 and demands a court order to stop the L-G administration from "taking any adverse action against migrant employees, who are not able to join their duties owing to the threat to their lives and well-being."

After the dilution of Article 370 in 2019, the Pandits have again been in the crosshairs of militants. In a sudden spurt in attacks on Pandits and Jammu Hindu employees, recruited under Schedule Caste (SC) quota and posted in Kashmir, militants have killed at least 20 civilians since June 8, 2020 in Kashmir. This includes six Kashmiri Pandits.

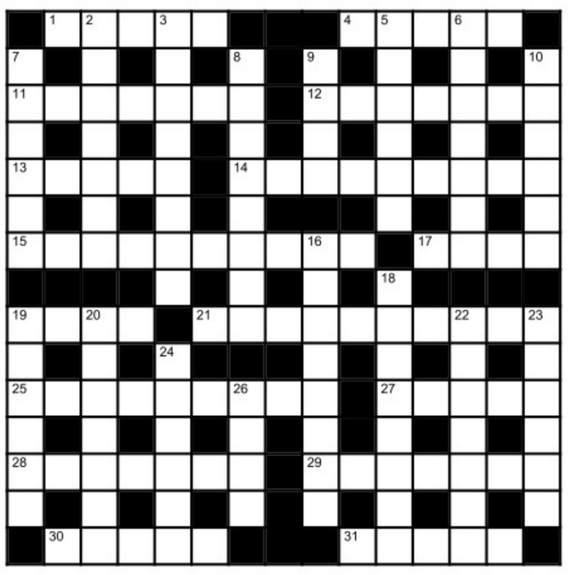
The fresh migration started this year when militants killed a Pandit employee, Rahul Bhat this year.

TH CROSSWORD + 13748

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Look into soft clothing (5)
4 Basically, cleft horribly altering surface materially! (5)
11 Natural disaster upsets UN - a million buried (7)
12 Had inspiring scripture in battle (7)
13 Dodge woman without a date (5)
14 Small mistake reversed while entering below to submit (9)
15 Start to throw loads in bleach used for linen (10)
17 Heads of democracy are ignored sadly in stage (4)
19 What essentially follows party in port (4)
21 Label serum test at first before blood grouping (10)
25 Spooner's stupid and crazy parents (3,3,3)
27 Start to halve idle working capital (5)
28 She's again in cast making movies at last (7)
29 Somewhat cute 'n' silly gadget (7)
30 Attempts to provide time for fine cooks (5)
31 NASA vague about Armstrong's first position (5)

Down

2 Reading centre blocked by local trash (7)
3 Support permit for handcuff? (8)
5 One free to run behind little horned animal (6)
6 Awfully hard and sad Hindu ceremony for the departed (7)
7 Leaving most obese fellow to testify (6)
8 Ali's left fighting and participates in Tang Ping, say (4,4)
9 Say Mira's new song (4)
10 Model tries mobile game (6)
16 Beat hawk getting angry (5,3)
18 One joins clothes for men (8)
19 Lower member of faculty taking author up (6)
20 Grisham's terrified about little animal (7)
22 Former leader represented in style (7)
23 Fit for having to wait around the French (6)
24 A couple of nights with old sweetheart creates attachment (6)
26 Hope to lose weight to date someone good-looking (4)

SUDOKU

							3	1
		1	7	3			4	5
2	9							
	2		5	7				
		8	1		3	4		
				8	6		5	
							2	4
5	3			6	2	7		
1	7							

No.SS5662 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	B	R	I	E	F	S		S	A	T	R	A	P	
	L		N		I		R		B		E		O	
S	A	G	O		C	H	O	P	S	T	I	C	K	S
	T		F		T		C		E		N		E	
S	H	U	F	T	I		K	I	N	G	D	O	M	S
	E				O		I		T		E		O	
P	R	O	M	I	N	E	N	T		K	E	E	N	
			A				G				R			
	U	L	N	A		S	C	R	I	M	S	H	A	W
	N		O		E		H		N				V	
S	W	E	E	T	P	E	A		S	N	A	K	E	S
	R		U		O		I		P		F		R	
P	A	A	V	O	N	U	R	M	I		L	I	A	R
	P		R		Y		S		R		A		G	
	S	T	E	A	M	Y		B	E	S	T	I	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	4	2	1	7	6	9	5
9	6	1	5	3	4	8	2	7
5	2	7	9	8	6	3	4	1
2	1	9	4	5	3	7	8	6
7	5	3	8	6	2	9	1	4
4	8	6	7	9	1	2	5	3
1	7	5	3	2	9	4	6	8
6	4	2	1	7	8	5	3	9
3	9	8	6	4	5	1	7	2

FAITH

Lakshmana stays guard

Furious over Kaikeyi's wicked demands, Sumatra speaks to her harshly. But Rama is ready to leave for the forest. It is the reliable Sumantra who drives Him to the forest, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar, in a discourse. When they reach Sringaverapura, on the banks of the river Ganga, Rama suggests that they halt there. Guha, ruler of the region, greets Rama. He offers food to Rama. But Rama says that since He is an exile, He should eat only roots and fruits. Rama then lies down to sleep. Lakshmana stays watch. Guha offers to stay guard.

Guha says that Lakshmana too is a prince, and is unaccustomed to hardships. So, he too should rest and leave the duty of guarding Rama to Guha. Guha tells Lakshmana that the land is known to him and to his people. Even if an army with four divisions – elephant force, cavalry, chariots and foot soldiers arrives, Guha and his men know how to deal with it. But Lakshmana says that when Rama, who cannot be defeated even by a combined army of the devas and asuras, is lying on the floor, he (Lakshmana) cannot think of resting.

Rama is dear to His father, says Lakshmana, and therefore, separation from Rama will kill him. The palace must be silent now, with the women having been tired out by their constant wailing, Lakshmana says. As for Dasaratha, Kausalya and Sumitra, it is doubtful if they will live to see another day. The thought of Shatrughna might keep Lakshmana's mother Sumitra alive. But what consolation does Kausalya have? Ayodhya itself will perish. Kausalya will die due to her sorrow, and will be followed by Sumitra. Lakshmana's emotional outburst brings tears to Guha.

TOKYO

Japan PM sacks fourth Minister in 2 months from scandal-hit govt.

AFP

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday dismissed his fourth Minister in two months to patch a scandal-tainted Cabinet that has raised questions over his judgment of staff credentials. Kenya Akiba, Minister in charge of Reconstruction of Fukushima, has faced allegations of mishandling political and election funds. AP

JERUSALEM

Israel Parliament passes laws ahead of Netanyahu return

AP

Israel's Parliament on Tuesday passed controversial legislation paving the way for the return of veteran hawk Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister. On Tuesday, lawmakers passed legislation that now allows anyone convicted of offences but not given a custodial sentence to serve as a Minister. AFP

ST. PETERSBURG

Armenia leader questions role of Russia peacekeepers in Karabakh

AFP

The leader of Armenia on Tuesday questioned the role of Russian peacekeepers in Nagorno-Karabakh. Since mid-December, Azerbaijani activists have been blocking the Lachin corridor, the only land link between Armenia and Karabakh, to protest what they claim is illegal mining. AFP

SEOUL

South Korea to pardon former leader Lee for corruption crimes

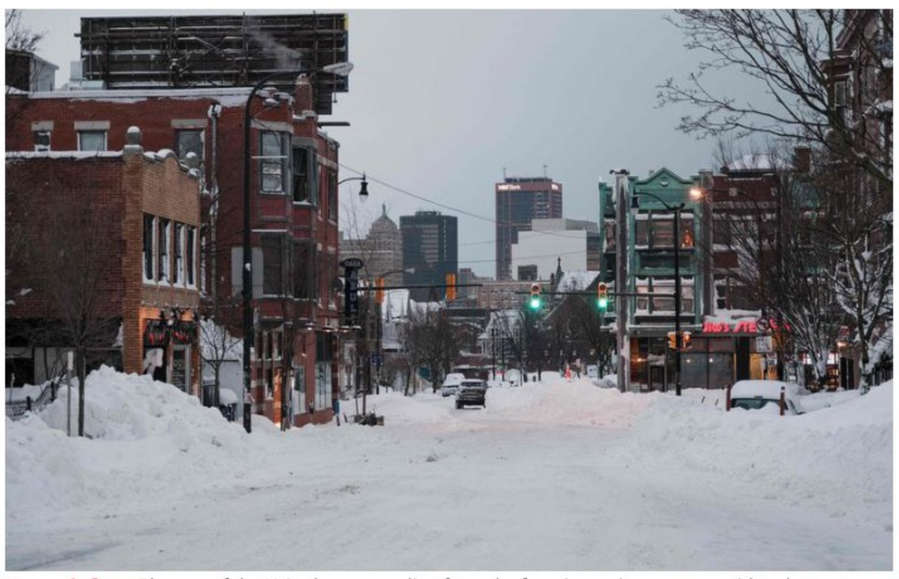
AP

The South Korean government of President Yoon Suk Yeol said on Tuesday that it will grant a special pardon to ex-President Lee Myung-bak, who was sentenced to a 17-year prison term for corruption. The Justice Ministry said in a statement that Mr. Lee is among 1,373 convicts who will be pardoned Wednesday. AP

More snow in store for Buffalo after blizzard 'for the ages'

In New York's second largest city, the dead were found in cars, homes and snowbanks; some 2,872 domestic and international U.S. flights were cancelled on Tuesday; Biden offers federal help

Associated Press
BUFFALO



Nature's fury: The rest of the U.S. also was reeling from the ferocious winter storm, with at least an additional two dozen deaths reported in other parts of the country. AFP

Storm-battered Buffalo braced on Tuesday for fresh snow while still striving to recover from an epic blizzard that killed at least 34 people, stranded others in cars for days and shuttered the city's airport.

The National Weather Service predicted that as much as two inches (2.5 to 5 cm) of snow could fall on Tuesday in Erie County, which includes Buffalo, the second-largest city in New York, with about 275,000 residents.

While that's nothing like the massive storm that dropped over four feet of snow in some places starting on Christmas Eve, "any additional snowfall that Buffalo may continue to have today is going to be impactful," said lead forecaster Bob Oravec.

"The biggest impact is going to be how it hinders the removal of the previous snowfall," he said.

The rest of the U.S. also was reeling from the ferocious winter storm, with at least an additional two dozen deaths reported in other parts of the country, and power outages in communities from Maine to Washington State.

In Buffalo, the dead were found in cars, homes and snowbanks. Some died while shovelling snow, others when emergency crews could not respond in time to medical crises. County Executive Mark Poloncarz called the blizzard "the worst storm probably in our lifetime," even for an area known for heavy snow.

Mayor Byron Brown's office announced seven additional storm-related deaths on Tuesday, bringing Buffalo's total to 27, along with at least seven suburban fatalities.

President Joe Biden offered federal assistance on Monday to hard-hit New York, while Governor Kathy Hochul toured the aftermath in Buffalo – her hometown – and called the blizzard "one for the ages." Almost every fire truck in the city became stranded on Saturday, she said.

Historic snowfall

Ms. Hochul, a Democrat, noted the storm came a little over a month after the region was inundated with another "historic" snowfall. Between the two storms, snowfall totals are not far off from the 95.4 inches the area normally sees in an entire winter season.

The National Weather Service said the snow total at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport stood at 49.2 inches at 10 a.m. Monday. Officials say the airport will be shut through Wednesday morning. Some 2,872 domestic and international U.S. flights were cancelled Tuesday as of about 8 a.m. Eastern time, according to the tracking site *FlightAware*.

No mercy for hostile protests, says Iran's Raisi

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

President Ebrahim Raisi said on Tuesday Iran would show "no mercy" towards "hostile" opponents of the Islamic republic, gripped by over 100 days of protests sparked by Mahsa Amini's death.

The "riots" were triggered by the September 16 death in custody of Amini, 22, after her arrest for an alleged breach of the strict dress code for women. "The embrace of the nation is open to all those who were lured," said the ultraconservative President at a funeral procession for unidentified soldiers who perished during war in the 1980s with Iraq.

"The embrace is open to all, but will show no mercy to those who are hostile."

Taiwan extends mandatory military service to one year citing threats from China

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Tsai Ing-wen

Taiwan on Tuesday announced an extension in mandatory military service from four months to one year, citing the threat from China. Beijing considers self-ruled, democratic Taiwan a part of its territory, to be taken one day, by force if necessary, and the island lives under the constant fear of invasion.

Under President Xi Jinping, China's sabre-rattling has intensified in recent years, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine deepened worries in Taiwan that Beijing might move similarly to annex the island.

China's "intimidation and threats against Taiwan are getting more obvious", President Tsai Ing-wen told reporters. "No one wants war... but my fellow countrymen, peace will not fall from the sky." "The current four-month military service is not enough to meet the fast and ever-changing situation," she added. "We have decided to restore the one-year military service from 2024."

The extended requirement will apply to men born after January 1, 2005, Ms. Tsai said.

Mandatory service used to be deeply unpopular in Taiwan – once a brutal military dictatorship that has since morphed into a progressive democracy.

Its previous government had reduced compulsory military service from one year to four months with the aim of creating a mainly volunteer force.

But recent polling showed more than three-quarters of the Taiwanese public now believes that is too short. The military has also struggled to recruit and retain full-time personnel because of low financial incentives.

Ms. Tsai described the extension as "an extremely difficult decision... to ensure the democratic way of life for our future generations".

Russia to ban oil exports to nations with price cap from Feb.

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia issued a decree on Tuesday to ban oil sales to countries and companies that comply with a price cap agreed by Western countries in response to Moscow's offensive in Ukraine. "The supply of Russian oil and oil products to foreign legal entities and individuals is prohibited if the contracts for these supplies directly or indirectly" are using a price cap, the decree said.

It will be in effect from February 1 until July 1. It added that the ban may be lifted in individual cases on the basis of "special decision" from President Vladimir Putin.

The price ceiling of $60 per barrel agreed by the European Union, G-7 and Australia came into force in early December and seeks to restrict Russia's revenue while making sure Moscow keeps supplying the global market.

Introduced alongside an EU embargo on seaborne deliveries of Russian crude oil, the cap aims to ensure Russia cannot bypass the embargo by selling its oil to third countries at high prices.

End ban on women: UN

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The Taliban must immediately revoke their policies targeting women and girls in Afghanistan, the UN rights chief insisted on Tuesday, condemning "terrible" consequences.

"No country can develop socially and economically with half its population excluded," Volker Turk, the UN chief for Human Rights, said.

Gun attack on Khan well-thought-out conspiracy, says JIT

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

The assassination bid on Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan last month was a "well-thought-out conspiracy," according to the Joint Investigation Team. Mr. Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, suffered bullet injuries in the right leg when two gunmen fired a volley of bullets at him.

Lahore Police chief Ghulam Mahmood Dogar, Punjab Home Minister Omar Sarfraz Cheema said that the gun attack on Khan was "organised one and well-thought-out conspiracy."

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Enviornment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
पो० ऑ० – न्यू फारेस्ट, देहरादून 248006 (उत्तराखण्ड)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248006 (Uttarakhand)

तिथि विस्तार सूचना

विज्ञप्ति संख्या 03 / डायरेक्टर्स / 2022–भा.वा.अ.शि.प.

DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

Advt. No.03/Directors/2022-ICFRE

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इस विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि जो कि दिनांक 31.12.2022 तक थी को दिनांक 15.01.2023 तक विस्तारित किया जाता है। अन्य नियम व शर्तें पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन के अनुसार रहेंगी।

उपरोक्त पद हेतु इच्छुक अभ्यर्थी भा0वा0अ0शि0प0 की वेबसाइट **http://www.icfre.org** में दिये गये विस्तृत विज्ञापन के अनुसार आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

Applications were invited for filling up of the post of **Director, Institute of Forest Productivity, Ranchi in Pay Level 14 of 7th CPC Pay Matrix on deputation basis** in Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun.

The last date of submission of application of the above advertisement which was upto 31.12.2022 is extended upto 15.01.2023. Other terms and conditions will remain same as in the earlier advertisement.

The interested candidates may apply for the above said post as per detailed advertisement available at ICFRE website **http://www.icfre.org**.

सचिव, भा.वा.अ.शि.प. / Secretary, ICFRE

THE HINDU GROUP

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THE HINDU Margazhi Music Contest

THE HINDU

To register, log in to **https:/bit.ly/THMMC22** or scan the QR code.
Mail us at **events@thehindu.co.in** to know more.

INBRIEF

India's top 7 cities log record housing sales in 2022: Anarock

Housing sales hit an all-time high this year to almost 3.65 lakh units across seven major cities, beating the previous high of 2014, on strong demand for residential properties despite an increase in mortgage rates, as per Anarock. The prices of the properties had risen between 4% and 7% primarily due to a rise in input costs and demand recovery post COVID. The property consultant also said unsold inventory declined 1% in the December quarter to 6,30,953 units. PTI

'Religare Finvest's ₹2,300-cr. settlement plan may get nod'

Debt-ridden Religare Finvest Ltd. (RFL) is hopeful of restarting its operations in the new year following the firm's ₹2,300-crore One Time Settlement (OTS) proposal finding favour with most of its lenders. Once the OTS process is completed, RFL will come out of the Corrective Action Plan imposed by the RBI in 2018. According to sources, 14 out of 16 lenders have signed the OTS agreement and the remaining are expected to sign in a day or two. PTI

Indowind Energy board approves ₹43-cr. rights issue

The board of Indowind Energy approved a rights issue of 3.58 crore equity shares for ₹43.07 crore. The issue will open on January 27 and close on February 10, as per a BSE filing. In a meeting held on December 27, the board gave approval to the proposal as per which two equity shares would be allotted for every five equity shares held by eligible equity shareholders of the company as on the record date of January 13. PTI

Bank balance sheets see double-digit growth in FY22 after 7-year gap: RBI

Credit growth hits 10-year high in first half of FY23; banks may have to raise deposit rates more to meet surge in credit demand, says the Reserve Bank in its Report on Trends and Progress of Banking in India 2021-22; it notes decline in GNPAs

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Fuelled by robust credit demand in FY22 as also in FY23 so far, the consolidated balance sheets of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) registered double-digit growth in FY22 after a gap of seven years, led by credit growth, which accelerated to a ten-year high in the first half of this fiscal, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in its Report on Trends and Progress of Banking in India 2021-22.

Beginning of the next credit cycle?

Indian economy has exhibited signs of a gradual strengthening of growth momentum, drawing from macroeconomic fundamentals, amid an uncertain global environment, says RBI

- Loans by Indian banks rose 17.5% in the two weeks to December 2 from a year earlier
- Deposits increased 9.9% in the same period
- Gross non-performing asset ratio of SCBs has been declining sequentially from its peak in 2017-18 to reach 5.8% by March 2022, led by lower slippages

Commercial banks may have to raise deposit rates more to meet a surge in credit demand, the central bank added. RBI has raised rates aggressively this year to tame inflation. While banks have swiftly transmitted increases to lending rates, deposit rates have been laggards for most.

"During [FY22], as credit growth picked up and deposit growth moderated, the incremental credit-deposit ratio reached a four-year high," the RBI said in its report. Loans of Indian banks rose 17.5% in the two weeks to December 2 from a year earlier, while deposits rose 9.9%.

The Indian economy exhibited signs of a gradual strengthening of the growth momentum, drawing from macroeconomic fundamentals, the RBI said in the report. It added this had come amid an uncertain global environment caused by globalisation of inflation, energy and food shortages, and synchronised tightening of monetary policy worldwide.

"The gross non-performing assets ratio of SCBs has been declining sequentially from its peak in 2017-18 to reach 5.8% at end-March 2022, led by lower slippages as well as reduction in outstanding GNPAs," the RBI said.

(With Reuters inputs)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,927	0.60
US Dollar	82.90	-0.30
Gold	55,074	0.65
Brent oil	84.95	--

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 27

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.65	82.97
Euro	88.08	88.43
British Pound	99.68	100.08
Japanese Yen (100)	62.00	62.25
Chinese Yuan	11.87	11.92
Swiss Franc	89.04	89.39
Singapore Dollar	61.42	61.67
Canadian Dollar	61.06	61.30
Malaysian Ringitt	18.68	18.77
Australian Dollar	55.77	55.99

Source:Indian Bank

Govt. tweaks GST rules for claiming input tax credit

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

GST taxpayers will be required to reverse by November 30 the input tax credit (ITC) claimed in the last fiscal in case their suppliers fail to deposit the due tax by September 30, the Finance Ministry said.

The Ministry inserted Rule 37A in Central Goods and Services Tax rules to give effect to the provision.

"Where input tax credit has been availed by a registered person..., but the return in Form GSTR-3B for the tax period corresponding to the said statement of outward supplies has not been furnished by such supplier till September 30... input tax credit shall be reversed... on or before November 30 following the end of the such financial year," the Ministry said.

Oil hits 3-week high as China eases COVID restrictions

Reuters
LONDON

Oil hit a three-week high on Tuesday as China's latest easing of COVID-19 restrictions spurred hopes of a recovery in fuel demand, with further support coming from cuts to U.S. energy production caused by winter storms.

China will stop requiring inbound travellers to go into quarantine, starting January 8. Brent crude had risen 1.1% to $84.97 a barrel at 1108 GMT.

Merchandise exports may shrink 2.3% this year, warns CARE Ratings

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Slowing global growth and cooling demand are likely to shrink India's goods exports by more than 2% in 2022-23 and grow just 1.5% next year, CARE Ratings said in a research report on Tuesday, signalling a sharp drop in outbound shipments over the next quarter.

India's merchandise exports have grown 11.1% through the first eight months of the year to touch $295.3 billion, but the rating agency cited recent months' trend of moderating exports to reckon that the full-year figure would be 2.3% lower than the record $422 billion achieved in 2021-22.

With major economies likely to experience a sharp slowdown and global trade growth moderating, India's manufacturing sector, whose Gross Value Added to the economy contracted 4.3% in the second quarter, will feel the pain of lower external demand as is evident in the 4% drop in industrial output in October, economists at the rating agency pointed out.

"Sectors with high export intensity will specifically be hit hard by the ensuing global slowdown," they said, identifying gems & jewellery, ceramic & glassware, leather & leather products, drugs & pharmaceuticals, engineering & electrical goods, and textiles as the most export-intensive sectors in manufacturing.

"Some of these export intensive-sectors like textiles and garments, gems & jewellery, leather products are also highly labour-intensive. Hence, slowdown in these sectors will have implications for the overall employment scenario in the economy," they cautioned in the note.

'Significant govt. control under data protection bill to hit data centre investments'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Significant controls and exemptions to the government under the proposed Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022 are likely to make it harder for companies to invest in data centres and data processing activities in India, according to global technology industry body ITI.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT had floated a draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill 2022 and has invited comments on the same.

"The Bill grants significant controls to the executive arm of GoI (Government of India) and delegates much of the detailed rule-making authority to separate, as yet undefined processes," ITI, which represents global technology majors such as Google, Microsoft, Meta, Twitter and Apple, said in a submission.

The draft has exempted government-notified data fiduciaries from several compliance burdens. Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar had said that the exemptions for the government would be only in special circumstances like maintaining public order.

'Airbag industry in India to grow to ₹7,000 cr. by FY27'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The industry size of airbags is expected to grow to up to ₹7,000 crore by FY27 in India from the current level of about ₹2,500 crore, according to rating agency ICRA.

The growth in one of the fastest-growing auto-component segments is expected to be fuelled by an rise in content per vehicle arising from higher regulatory needs and voluntary increase in the number of airbags per vehicle for enhancing safety, ICRA said.

"The average number of airbags per car sold is about three currently, and this is expected to increase significantly post the mandatory implementation of six airbags per car from October 1, 2023," said ICRA vice-president and sector head Vinutaa S.

India-Australia FTA to aid rise in exports of apparel: AEPC

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Customs duty advantage under the India-Australia free trade agreement (FTA) will aid Indian apparel exporters in getting better market access in that country, AEPC said.

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Vice Chairman Sudhir Sekhri said Australia is the largest importer of garments in the southern hemisphere. While China's share in import of apparel into Australia is more than 70% , India's share is less than 5%.

'Green hydrogen may get $2 bn incentive'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Proposal aims to cut production cost of green hydrogen by a fifth over five years, from ₹300-₹400 a kg

India is planning a $2-billion incentive programme for the green hydrogen industry, three sources told Reuters, in a bid to cut emissions and become a major export player.

The ₹180-billion ($2.2 billion) incentive aims to reduce the production cost of green hydrogen by a fifth over the next five years, said a senior government official and an industry manager working in renewable energy.

The current cost in India is ₹300 to ₹400 per kg, said the manager.

Hydrogen can be used as a fuel. It is made by splitting water with an electrical process, electrolysis. If the devices that do that – electrolysers – are powered by renewable energy, the product is called green hydrogen, a fuel free of greenhouse emissions.

The aid could be announced in the February 1 Budget for the year beginning April 1, said the government official.

Sport

Sethuraman nails Abhijeet, shares lead with Guha ahead of four other players

NATIONAL CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

S.P. Sethuraman played to his reputation of being the top seed and ended the unbeaten run of overnight leader Abhijeet Gupta by inflicting a 35-move defeat and shared the lead with Mitrabha Guha at 5.5 points from six rounds of the MPL National chess championship here on Tuesday.

Guha proved superior by riding on a two-pawn advantage in a minor-piece endgame against fifth seed N. R. Vishakh after 65 moves.

As things stand, following the leaders are four players – Abhijeet, M. R. Venkatesh, Aronyak Ghosh and Mehar Chinna Reddy – with five points each.

Aronyak settled for a quick 20-move draw with Koustav Chatterjee, following a three-fold repetition of moves.

Fourth seed Leon Mendonca ran into a determined Utkal Ranjan Sahoo who played the endgame accurately to force a 92-move draw. N.B. Hari Madhavan, too, pulled off an impressive 132-move draw against GM P. Iniyan.

22 players at the top

Meanwhile in the women's Nationals in Kolhapur, rating favourite Vantika Agrawal, defending champion Divya Deshmukh and former champions Mary Ann Gomes and Bhakti Kulkarni were among the 22 players who posted a second straight victory to share the lead after two rounds.

S.P. Sethuraman. FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Sanyukhtha stuns Isha

Though most results on the leading boards produced predictable winners, Tamil Nadu's C. N. M. Sanyukhtha upstaged ninth seeded Karnataka girl Isha Sharma and Telangana's V. Sarayu held TN's M. Mahalakshmi.

Leading results:

At New Delhi: Men (sixth round): S.P. Sethuraman (5.5) bt Abhijeet Gupta (5); Mitrabha Guha (5.5) bt N. R. Visakh (4.5); Koustav Chatterjee (4.5) drew with Aronyak Ghosh (5); Leon Mendonca (4.5) drew with Utkal Ranjan Sahoo (4); N. B. Hari Madhavan (4.5) drew with P. Iniyan (4.5); K. Ratnakaran (4) lost to M. R. Venkatesh (5); Garv Rai (4) lost to Mehar Chinna Reddy (5); Yash Bharadia (4.5) drew with Kushagra Mohan (4.5); Karthik Venkataraman (4.5) bt Dere Pushkar (4).

At Kolhapur: Women (second round): Vantika Agrawal (2) bt C. Lakshmi (1); Bhagyashree Patil (1) lost to Divya Deshmukh (1); Mitali Patil (1) lost to Mary Ann Gomes (2); Bhakti Kulkarni (2) bt Mrittika Mallick (1); V. Sarayu (1.5) drew with M. Mahalakshmi (1.5); Rucha Pujari (2) bt C. Femil (1); P. Surpreetha (1) lost to Sakshi Chitlange (2); Isha Sharma (1) lost to C. M. N. Sunyuktha (1); Bristy Mukherjee (2) bt Arpita Mukherjee (1); Srija Seshadri (2) bt Anjali Sagar (1); V. Rindhiya (1) lost to Aakanksha Hagawane (2); Srishti Pandey (2) bt Hajra Chandreyee (1); Samriddhaa Ghosh (1) lost to Nisha Mohota (2).

Savitha emerges joint leader; Arjun slips to tied fifth

WORLD RAPID CHESS

Sports Bureau

With the focus firmly on Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin in the midst of a few front-runners, Tamil Nadu's B. Savitha Shri emerged as the performer of the day by stringing together four straight victories to jump into the joint lead of the women's section of the World rapid chess championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Tuesday.

Savitha, a protégé of noted chess trainer Grandmaster R.B. Ramesh, raised her tally to 6.5 points from eight rounds to join China's Tan Zhongyi and Georgia's Alexandra Goryachkina, seeded three and four. With a starting rank of 36, nobody expected Savitha to come out with an all-win record for the day during which she faced Kazakhstan's Zarina Nurgaliyeva, Iran's Sarasadat Khademalsharieh, former World champion from Bulgaria Antoaneta Stefanova and Georgia's Bela Khotenashvili.

With three rounds remaining, half-a-point behind Savitha was K. Humpy, followed by Padmini Rout, D. Harika (4.5 each) and Tania Sachdev (4).

In the Open section, overnight joint leader Arjun (6.5 points) slipped to joint fifth place after two wins and two losses during the four rounds for the day.

Magnus Carlsen emerged the leader at 7.5 points from nine rounds ahead of Vladislav Fedoseev (FIDE), Vincent Keymer (Germany) and defending champion Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan) (7 each).

Arjun started the day with a defeat to Fedoseev, then beat Anish Giri, lost to Keymer and signed off with a victory over Maxime Vachier-Lagrave.

Following Arjun are, Nihal Sarin, Surya Shekhar Ganguly, Vidit Gujrathi (6 each), Raunak Sadhwani (5.5), Abhimanyu Puranik, V. Pranav, B. Adhiban (5 each), P. Harikrishna, Harsha Bharathakoti, S.L. Narayanan (4.5 each), Sankalp Gupta, Aravindh Chithambaram, Arjun Kalyan (4 each) and N. Srinath (3.5).

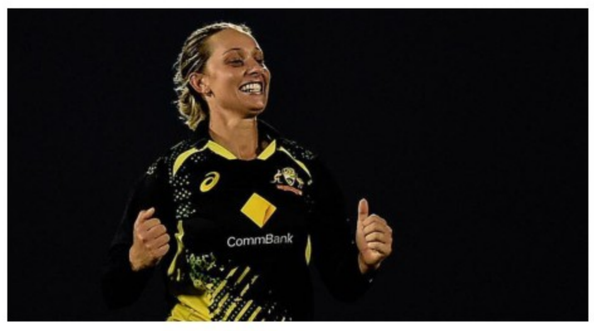
END OF A JOURNEY

Former South Africa white-ball specialist Behardien calls it a day

South African white-ball specialist and former T20I skipper Farhaan Behardien (39) on Tuesday announced his retirement from professional cricket after 59 ODIs and 38 T20Is. He also captained a three-match T20 series against Sri Lanka in 2017. He made 1,074 ODI runs, 518 T20I runs and more than 7,000 First Class runs.

TAKING OVER AT THE TOP

Gardner is new No. 1 in women's T20I all-rounders' ranking



Australian all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner (417 points) has overtaken West Indies skipper Hayley Matthews (381), India's Deepti Sharma (387) and New Zealand captain Sophie Devine (389) to attain a career-best No. 1 spot in the latest ICC Women's T20I player rankings for all-rounders released on Tuesday.

TRIUMPHANT

Brijesh Damani emerges National billiards champion

Asian Games silver medallist Brijesh Damani won his maiden National Billiards Championship as he downed fellow-PSPB player Dhruv Sitwala in Indore. The match was level till four games when Brijesh accelerated to take a 4-3 lead. He then played all across the table to dominate in the eighth game and won 5-3.

WHITE-BALL CHALLENGE

England to tour Bangladesh in March 2023

England's rearranged tour of Bangladesh will go ahead in March 2023 with three ODIs and three T20I games. The matches were due to be played in Sept. and Oct. 2021, but were postponed because of pressures related to COVID-19. Jos Buttler's side will travel as world champion in both of these formats of the game.

Warner posts double century in his 100th Test, retires hurt

Australia consolidates advantage as South African bowlers struggle in temperatures touching 37°C at the MCG; Warner needed treatment for cramps several times; Smith rides his luck to chalk up his 37th half-century

Gladiator: Warner is assisted off the field as he retires hurt after ending a near-three-year century drought with a third double ton in Tests. AP

SA IN AUSTRALIA

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

David Warner battled through searing heat to hit an epic unbeaten 200 in his 100th Test on Tuesday before retiring in pain as Australia consolidated its advantage against South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

On a scorching day, Australia was 386 for three at stumps on day two of the second Test, leading by 197 after the Proteas were dismissed in their first innings for 189. Travis Head was batting on 48 with Alex Carey on nine.

Steve Smith (85) and Marnus Labuschagne's (14) were the only wickets to fall.

Green hurt

But worryingly for Australia, Cameron Green, who took five for 27 in South Africa's first innings, also retired hurt after a nasty rap on the finger from Anrich Nortje.

Smith and Warner's 239-run partnership took the game further away from South Africa, whose bowlers toiled in temperatures touching 37°C.

Opener Warner, 36, snapped a near-three-year century drought in typically aggressive and gritty fashion, reaching three figures for a 25th time. It was his first Test hundred since January 2020 and converted it into a third 200.

But it was an exhausting effort, as he passed 8,000 Test runs en route.

Warner needed treatment for cramps several times and retired in pain after reaching 200 and dropping to his knees, eventually helped from the field by support staff.

Australia resumed on 45 for one. Nortje was routinely sending down 150 kmph rockets, smacking Warner on the head when he was on 47. The batter was given the all-clear after a mandatory concussion test on the field.

After Labuschagne was run out, Warner put his head down to motor to 100.

Smith was not as comfortable, escaping on nine when he was dropped by wicketkeeper Kyle Verreynne and then on 39 when he was caught behind off a no-ball. But he persevered to reach a 37th Test fifty.

Warner upped the ante after his century and raced to 200 off 254 balls before calling it quits.

The scores: South Africa 189 vs Australia 386/3 in 91 overs (David Warner 200 retd. hurt, Steve Smith 85, Travis Head 48 batting).

NZ openers thwart Pakistan after Salman's maiden ton

Agence France-Presse
KARACHI

Sheet-anchor: Agha Salman's maiden hundred propelled Pakistan to 438 with stitching useful stands with the lower-order. AFP

New Zealand openers Devon Conway and Tom Latham blunted Pakistan bowlers to guide their side to a solid 165 without loss at close on the second day of the first Test on Tuesday.

Conway became the fastest New Zealand batter to complete 1,000 runs in his 11th Test when he reached 82 at close and was ably supported by Latham who was unbeaten on 78.

The tourists are now 273 runs behind Pakistan's first innings total of 438 which was spiced up by a brilliant maiden hundred from Agha Salman.

Conway was lucky to survive a caught behind dismissal on 57 off spinner Nauman Ali.

Pakistan did not challenge umpire Aleem Dar's not out decision but replays showed the batter had edged the ball.

Salman's 103 anchored the innings after skipper Babar Azam fell in the first over of the day without adding to his overnight score of 161.

Tim Southee forced an edge off Azam's bat to wicketkeeper Tom Blundell.

The scores: Pakistan 438 in 130.5 overs (Babar Azam 161, Sarfaraz Ahmed 86, Agha Salman 103, Southee 3/69) vs New Zealand 165/0 in 47 overs (Tom Latham 78 batting, Devon Conway 82 batting).

Raring to go

Here we come! The Indian squad arriving in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday for the upcoming FIH men's hockey World Cup. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Hardik to helm T20I squad against Sri Lanka

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

All-rounder Hardik Pandya was on Tuesday named as India's T20I captain for the upcoming three-match series against Sri Lanka with Rohit Sharma retaining the ODI leadership role. With Rohit recovering from a thumb dislocation, the BCCI press release didn't state if it is a permanent change or just for one series.

Kohli, Rahul excluded

Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul are also not part of the shortest format, while Suryakumar Yadav has been named Hardik's deputy.

The T20I team has a fresh look with the inclusion of uncapped pacers Shivam Mavi and Mukesh Kumar being inducted into the shortest format.

Wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant has been dropped from both the squads.

The squads:

Hardik. AFP

T20I: Hardik Pandya (Capt.), Ishan Kishan (wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shubman Gill, Suryakumar Yadav (Vice-capt.), Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Sanju Samson, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Umran Malik, Shivam Mavi, Mukesh Kumar.

ODI: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Hardik Pandya (Vice-capt.), Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Mohd. Shami, Mohd. Siraj, Umran Malik, Arshdeep Singh.

The schedule: T20Is (7 p.m. start): Jan. 3 (Mumbai), Jan. 5 (Pune), Jan. 7 (Rajkot). All matches start at 7 p.m.

ODIs (1.30 p.m. start): Jan. 10 (Guwahati), Jan. 12 (Kolkata), Jan. 15 (Thiruvananthapuram).

Bopanna delighted at getting chance to spend time with the elite

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

It was a memorable outing for Rohan Bopanna as he competed with some of the very best players in the world – men and women – in a relaxed atmosphere in the World Tennis League in Dubai.

"I had the best seat with them on the sidelines, listening to what they were thinking," said Bopanna. "They trained during the day with their coaches, and in the evening competed in a nice easy way. We had DJs performing later, which made for a very enjoyable atmosphere," recalled Bopanna.

Season start in Pune

With his schedule packed till the Davis Cup tie against Denmark, Bopanna said he was back home for a few days in Bengaluru, before going to Pune for the Maharashtra Open ATP event to start the season.

"I spoke to Holger Rune during the league. He said he would play the Davis Cup tie against us. With a top-10 player like him in the squad, it becomes very difficult for us, especially away from home," said Bopanna.

Moments to cherish: Bopanna with Swiatek in Dubai. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Not ruling out India's chances, Bopanna felt the Indian players had to rise above their level to make a match of it.

The World League also gave Bopanna a chance to hit with some top players, including women's World No. 1 Iga Swiatek.

"She did come across as an affectionate and warm person. She is very consistent, and the backhand is her money shot. The top spin on the forehand, she hits pretty deep," observed Bopanna.

With Swiatek's coach Tomasz Wiktorowski requesting Bopanna to speak up if he noticed anything in her game, Bopanna was happy to share his insight into sharpening her volleys.

"The coach may have been telling her the same. But when I say, it is a different voice, and leads to a different perception. She is a quick learner and was able to execute better volleys, stepping in. She was sweet to acknowledge my help," said Bopanna.

Partner on the mend

Ranked No. 19 in the world, the 42-year-old Bopanna said he was happy to partner a top-35 singles player, Botic van de Zandschulp for the ATP event in Pune. He was glad that his regular partner for the new season, Wimbledon champion Matthew Ebden had recovered from injury and would be competing in the first tournament in Adelaide.

"We will be partnering in the second tournament in Adelaide and continue thereafter," said Bopanna.

Facile win puts Arsenal seven points clear

Bang! Nketiah firing in Arsenal's third goal. REUTERS

Reuters
LONDON

With Arsene Wenger watching from the stands, Arsenal came from behind to see off West Ham United 3-1 at home on Monday and move seven points clear at the top of the Premier League.

Bukayo Saka, Gabriel Martinelli and Eddie Nketiah scored in a rousing second-half comeback after a Said Benrahma penalty had given West Ham the lead.

The victory maintained Arsenal's 100% home record in the league this season and lifted it 40 points from 15 games, seven clear of second-placed Newcastle United, who have played 16 matches.

Free-flowing Liverpool also eased past Aston Villa 3-1. Striker Salah tapped in the visitors' opener in the fifth minute before defender van Dijk bagged Liverpool's second in the 37th minute. Ollie Watkins replied for Villa but 18-year-old Spanish midfielder Bajcetic squeezed in Liverpool's third.

The results: Aston Villa 1 (Watkins 59) lost to Liverpool 3 (Salah 5, Van Dijk 37, Bajcetic 81); Arsenal 3 (Saka 53, Martinelli 58, Nketiah 69) bt West Ham 1 (Benrahma 27-pen).

INBRIEF

Saina for selection trials of Asian mixed team c'ship

Two-time Commonwealth Games champion Saina Nehwal has been named for next month's selection trials for the Asian mixed team championships, to be held in Dubai from February 14 to 19, 2023. The senior selection committee had a virtual meeting on December 25 to finalise the trials. Based on world rankings, direct entry has been given to singles Lakshya Sen, H.S. Prannoy, P.V. Sindhu and men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Ranikreddy and Chirag Shetty. The rest of the 14-member team will be picked at the trials to be held here on January 2 and 3.

Government gives official recognition to Esports

The Government of India on Tuesday gave Esports a major boost by integrating it with mainline sports disciplines in the country. There had been a growing demand for Esports to be included in the curriculum of multi-discipline events after it was included in the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games as a demonstration sport. The International Olympic Association (IOC) is also going big on popularising Esport with Singapore being confirmed to host the inaugural Olympic Esports Week in June next year.

LIVE TELECAST

Australia vs South Africa: 2nd Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Pakistan vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 a.m.
ISL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Samarth's century helps Karnataka begin strongly

Vishal Onat, promoted to one-drop, lends good support; Shreyas Gopal left out and replaced by left-arm spinner and useful batter Shubhang Hegde; Nitin Jose dismissed late in the day

RANJI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
PANAJI

R. Samarth recorded his third consecutive century to power Karnataka to 294 for three on the first day of its Ranji Trophy Elite Group-C encounter against Goa here on Tuesday.

Samarth now has hundreds in each of the three games played this season. The Karnataka opener favoured the drive, crisply putting away anything full to the cover and straight boundaries. When fast bowler Lakshay Garg attempted to bounce him out with a deep square-leg and deep fine-leg in place, Samarth rolled the wrist to keep the ball safe along the ground.

Samarth cruised along until the 75th over, when he flashed away from his body at left-arm pacer Arjun Tendulkar.

The lazy shot got the edge and carried to wicket-keeper Eknath Kerkar.

Vishal Onat, promoted to one-drop, remained unbeaten on 73. Onat, playing his third First Class fixture, has a great chance to record a maiden hundred. Onat lived dangerously on occasions, playing full deliveries on the back-foot.

Mayank Agarwal (50, 82b, 5x4, 2x6) struck left-arm spinner Darshan Misal for a couple of big sixes. Mayank, however, came undone to a harmless overpitched delivery from Lakshya. With no movement of the feet, the Karnataka captain was trapped in front.

Firing on all cylinders: Opener Samarth was in his element against Goa. ASHWIN ACHAL

Just a few overs earlier, Mayank received a reprieve when a similar full floater from Lakshya flattened the stumps. Mayank was recalled when the bowler was found to have overstepped.

Late in the day, Goa had reason to celebrate when Darshan Misal trapped Nikin Jose (9) leg-before.

The home side took an overly defensive approach on the field. As early as the first session of the match, the spinners operated with three fielders patrolling the leg-side boundary.

The men in the circle were caught napping, as Mayank and Samarth repeatedly stole singles from under their noses.

A few run-out chances were missed, as the wild throws missed the target.

Karnataka all-rounder Shreyas Gopal was left out of the playing eleven. Shubhang Hegde, left-arm spinner and handy bat, took his spot.

The scores:

Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth c Eknath b Arjun 140, Mayank Agarwal lbw b Lakshay50, Vishal Onat (batting)73, Nikin Jose lbw b Misal 9, Manish Pandey (batting)8; Extras (b-4, lb-5, w-2, nb-3): 14; Total (for three wkts. in 90 overs): 294.

Fall of wickets: 1-116, 2-259, 3-284.

Goa bowling: Lakshay 15-1-48-1, Arjun 13-2-30-1, Alemao 12-0-55-0, Misal 32-4-73-1, Redkar 14-0-55-0, Lad 1-0-8-0, Prabhudessai 3-0-16-0.

Toss: Karnataka.

I made a mental shift for this season: Samarth

Sports Bureau
PANAJI

To stand out among the crowd in Indian domestic cricket, a batter must consistently make big scores. This realisation has dawned on Karnataka opener R. Samarth. The batter had a quiet previous season, where he made three fifties. He was unable to convert the starts – a failing which bothered Samarth.

Come the new season, Samarth has corrected his flaw. In the three First Class matches that Karnataka has played thus far, Samarth has scores of 119 n.o., 137 and 140.

"Last year, I made a few errors. I got good starts, but I didn't utilise those opportunities. I made a mental shift for this season. I shouldn't be missing out on those opportunities, because it is a mistake to get out when you're set. I wanted to play long and think big," Samarth said here on Tuesday.

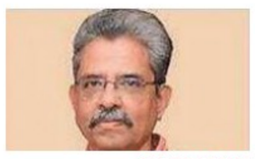
"To be noticed, and to be in the reckoning for anything, it is very important to convert these half-centuries into hundreds. It's important for me to keep getting big runs consistently," Samarth said.

RANJI SCORES (ROUND THREE, DAY ONE)

Elite: Group A: At Vadodara: Uttar Pradesh 225/7 in 91 overs (Priyam Garg 52, Akshdeep Nath 57 batting) vs. Baroda. **Toss: U.P.**
At Cuttack: Haryana 306/5 in 90 overs (Nishant Sindhu 142 batting, Rohit Sharma 55, Suryakant Pradhan 4/68) vs. Odisha. **Toss: Odisha.**
At Sovima: Nagaland 166/9 in 62 overs (Chetan Bist 64, Pradipta Pramanik 5/43) vs. Bengal. **Toss:** Nagaland.
At Dehradun: Himachal Pradesh 49 in 16.3 overs (Deepak Dhapola 8/35) vs. Uttarakhand 295/6 in 65 overs (Jiwanjot Singh 45, Aditya Tare 91 batting, Abhay Negi 48 batting). **Toss: H.P.**
Group B: At Delhi: Delhi 212/6 in 76 overs (Dhruv Shorey 66, Jonty Sidhu 57) vs. Tamil Nadu. **Toss: TN.**
At Hyderabad: Assam 205 in 56.4 overs (Swarupam Purkayastha 83, Ravi Teja 4/53) vs. Hyderabad 78/3 in 27 overs. **Toss: Hyderabad.**
At Vizianagaram: Maharashtra 200 in 57.3 overs (Saurabh Nawale 70, Nitish Kumar Reddy 5/53) vs. Andhra 58/2 in 23 overs. **Toss: Andhra.**
At Mumbai: Saurashtra 289 in 79.1 overs (Sheldon Jackson 47, Arpit Vasavada 75, Shams Mulani 4/109) vs. Mumbai 36/2 in 8 overs. **Toss: Saurashtra.**

At Jamshedpur: Services 326/6 in 90 overs (Sufiyan Alam 58, Rahul Singh 60, Rajat Paliwal 76, Mohit Rathee 60 batting) vs. Jharkhand. **Toss: Services.**
At Puducherry: Rajasthan 333/9 in 82 overs (Deepak Hooda 94, Manav Suthar 95 batting) vs. Pondicherry. **Toss: Rajasthan.**
At Thumba: Chhattisgarh 149 in 49.5 overs (Harpreet Singh 40, Jalaj Saxena 5/48) vs. Kerala 100/2 in 38 overs. **Toss: Kerala.**
Group D: At Agartala: Punjab 62/1 in 17 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 41 batting) vs. Tripura. **Toss: Tripura.**
At Ahmedabad: Chandigarh 247/7 in 90 overs (Arslan Khan 56, Gaurav Puri 51, Bhagmender Lather 68 batting, Shen Patel 4/77) vs. Gujarat. **Toss: Chandigarh.**
At Nagpur: Jammu & Kashmir 191 in 68 overs (Musaif Ajaz 41, Yash Thakur 4/40) vs. Vidarbha 58/2 in 21.1 overs. **Toss: J&K.**
At Indore: Railways 274 in 87.4 overs (Upendra Yadav 61, Avesh Khan 4/69) vs. Madhya Pradesh (MP). **Toss: Railways.**

Making tough calls to get it right matters more now than ever before



BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Where does Indian cricket stand? Stock-taking is a continuous process in sport, especially when a team loses. India didn't lose a Test in Bangladesh, but had they done so, there might have been significant changes before the next Test, against Australia in Nagpur in February.

Just as newcomers deserve a chance to succeed, old-timers deserve a chance to fail. India might be approaching a generational shift in their batting even if some of the seniors are younger than when previous generations called it a day.

The 2-0 series win might have helped cover up weaknesses in the team – remember this was India without Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja. A defeat might have brought in changes the selectors are too timid to try.

In control: Shreyas looked comfortable against the Bangladesh spinners by following the first rule of playing spin — either go fully back or fully forward. AFP

No magic formula

There is no magic formula to decide whether a player is past it, or merely out of form. The great Virender Sehwag played his last Test at 34, V.V.S. Laxman was playing at 37. Sachin Tendulkar was exceptional, playing on into his forties, but he went 23 Tests without a century in almost three years at the end. There's no magic formula.

Quite the most startling sight in the final Bangladesh Test at Mirpur was the Indian top order's uncertainty against spin. Shreyas Iyer alone looked comfortable for following the first rule of playing spin – either go fully back or fully forward.

Indian batsmen were caught in-between, and played more deliveries than they needed to. It is a strategy they could have got away with in white ball cricket but it was bound to land them in trouble when the ball was turning and there were close-in fielders waiting for the edge.

In recent years, India have struggled against spin which is ironic considering the number of spinners available in domestic cricket. But then so few of our internationals play domestic First Class cricket.

Dravidball, unlike Bazball, is based on defence, which meant that there was no designated hitter early in the order who could have put the pressure back on Bangladesh. Whether Axar Patel was sent in at No. 4 to strike or to protect Virat Kohli, it didn't work as it should have, although he accumulated valuable runs.

It wasn't until the 41st over, when Iyer took a punt on Shakib al Hasan and played him inside-out over extra cover that the stranglehold was broken. That, for India was the most important shot of the chase for it came with a message: we are willing to take a chance. And it led to a spate of boundaries from either end.

Ashwin similar to Laxman

Ashwin at his best evokes V.V.S. Laxman for his sense of timing and ability to absorb pressure. His coming in at number nine spoke of India's depth in batting; that he had to bat at all spoke of weaknesses in the top half.

Did India relax earlier, allowing Bangladesh not just to climb out of a hole but dig one that nearly trapped India in it? In the end, this didn't matter for all the elements contributed to an exciting Test match.

The points system means that every match is consequential. If India hope to play in the final of the World Test Championship (WTC) next year, they have to win three, if not all four Tests against Australia so they are not dependent on other results.

This means that the selection has to be ruthless and ad-hoc. Sentiment cannot be allowed to rule - and if it means any of K.L. Rahul, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli or another senior has to be dropped, then the selectors have to make that call.

This year, Kohli averaged 26.5 from six Tests, Rahul 17.12 from four, Rohit 30 from two. Cheteshwar Pujara had a century, and an average of 45 from five Tests. These are not inspiring figures, but equally, you cannot drop the whole lot.

The selectors will probably have some of them for the opening Test and take it on from there, which might be the sensible thing to do.

Test cricket is India's immediate concern. The 50-over World Cup at home is in October, giving them some breathing time. There are nine matches against three opponents before India have to make a call.

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